Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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POLL RESULTS

Are you worried about North Korea's threats to attack Guam?

Yes	131
No	147
Somewhat	39

Sunday, April 14, 2013

INSIDE

ASIA

The U.S. and China agree to rid North Korea of nuclear weapons.

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FOCUS

Chinese tourism might be the biggest phenomenon to hit the travel industry yet.

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LIFE & STYLE

PSY hopes that North Koreans will like his new single.

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Babauta's Tinian trip infuriates CHCC board. PAGE 5
Absentee voting starts for Filipino voters. PAGE 6

US military eyes leasing Pagan

Former House speaker Pedro "Paduna" Deleon Guerrero, right, airs his concerns about the U.S. Department of Defense's planned use of Tinian and Pagan for live-fire military training, during Friday night's public scoping meeting at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. The public has until April 29, 2013, to submit comments about the plan, which is available at www.cnmijointmilitarytrainingeis.com.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Leasing the whole or a large portion of Pagan is among the U.S. Department of Defense's options as part of its plans to develop live-fire military training areas both on Pagan and Tinian, where some two-thirds of lands are already under lease to the military.

» Up to 300 Marines a week on Tinian
» Inos: CNMI prepares for negotiations with Defense

Development of these areas for U.S. military training could begin as early as 2017, if and when a Record of Decision could be released in 2016.

Under initial stages of the

See PAGAN on Page 4

Land lease with quarry operators probed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations is probing the Department of Public Lands' differing land lease terms with private companies that are either paying $6,000 a year or $12,000 a year for rental on top of the $1.75 royalty fee for every cubic yard of coral aggregates extracted.

"Not only are there different rates for different operators including those at the Kannat Tabla site, but DPL also denied the Saipan Mayor's Office from quarrying there when that office is using the corals for public service. Does DPL

See LAND on Page 4

NMI heightens readiness vs new flu virus

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has inked a partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and other agencies to ratchet up the CNMI's readiness against a novel avian influenza A virus called H7N9, which already has confirmed cases in China.

Public health officials in China have reported 44 cases of human infection with the H7N9 flu to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. Most cases were hospitalized with severe respiratory illness and 11 persons have died since the last report on Saturday.

Inos

Although there are no cases of H7N9 flu in the CNMI, CHCC epidemiologist Edward Diaz said that the corporation is heightening its readiness to detect and respond to any flu outbreak.

See FLU on Page 4

ANNUAL WALKATHON

Children get their photos taken with the Huggies mascots at the 27th Annual Walkathon on Saturday morning. The event drew some 3,000 walkers of all ages and other backgrounds who walked along the stretch of Beach Road starting from the 4-H Building in Susupe going south for 2K, 5K, and 10K distances. CLARISSA V. DAVID

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MORE INSIDE

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➤ NMI budget could go up to some $120M. PAGE 5
➤ OES wins Parade of Books—again. PAGE 14

Saipan voted best destination for families

Flight attendants are the latest to weigh in on the debate about the world's best travel destinations. Asiana Airlines asked 1,825 of its cabin crew members for their preferences for different travel purposes.

As for family-oriented vacations with children, Saipan came out on top with 46 percent. Respondents cited the natural environment, recreational facilities and relatively short flying time from Seoul, according to survey results released on Thursday.

Cebu, one of the most popular destinations in the Philippines, and Phuket in Thailand came next with 13 and 11 percent, respectively.

Bangkok was chosen as the best destination for elderly parents with 33 percent, due to its diverse cuisine, exotic tourist sites and massage spas.

Japan's Fukuoka, well known for its hot springs, and Okinawa, dubbed the "Hawaii of the East," came in second and third with 13 and 8 percent, respectively.

Phuket topped the list for couples with 26 percent, though Sydney won out with 29 percent when flight attendants were asked about honeymoons due to its proximity to the Gold Coast.

France's Paris was picked as the best destination for solo travelers, and Hong Kong was selected as the best place to go with friends. ***(chosun.com)***

'Project Hafa Adai' spruces up Saipan intersections

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Motorists passing by the Micrl Toyota intersection along Beach Road will notice something different in the area since two weekends ago—and for a reason. Landscaping improvement is in progress on the intersection's traffic islands and medians, thanks to "Project Hafa Adai" of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Launched in April, Project Hafa Adai is a major undertaking in response to the CNMI government's destination enhancement initiative. Under the new project, the public will see gradual transformation at the Micrl Toyota juncture and other major intersections on island.

Mayor Donald G. Flores believes that the revitalization of major intersections is necessary, given that the area plays an important role as the government works on boosting the tourism industry on island.

"Many don't realize that our major intersections are a gateway to our tourism industry. Our tourists come to our island and the major intersections are among the first things that they see, so it is incumbent upon us to make sure that we improve it in a way that evokes that Hafa Adai spirit," he told *Saipan Tribune* at their work site on Saturday morning.

Flores said they decided to initiate Project Hafa Adai at the Micrl Toyota intersection, which is only a few meters from the Mayor's Office at Ladera Center along Beach Road. The newly launched project is also in support of the Adopt-a-Highway program of the Department of Public Works.

Saipan Mayor's staff removed overgrown grass and spruced up the thick bushes in the area. Last Saturday, the staff uprooted more unwanted grass, replacing them with more colorful and floral vegetation provided by the Forestry division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

"We removed the grass because they obstruct the flowering plants," said Flores. "We kept the current santan plants and plan to add other colors of the same plant so that when they grow, it will be more visually appealing."

Flores said more plants are being propagated at the moment to ensure that there is enough to cover other target areas.

After Micrl Toyota, the exciting transformation will move to the intersections at the Iglesia ni Cristo Church and Chalan Piao. Flores added that they plan to include on their list the Garapan Fishing Base, which hosts a lot of tourism-related activities such as the Garapan Street Market every Thursday.

Flores urged the public to do their share and safeguard the developed areas for the sake of the island's No. 1 industry.

"Each of us should be responsible for our island, our home," he added.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mayor Donald G. Flores, second right, joins the staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office during a break from their Project Hafa Adai work at the Micrl Toyota intersection on Saturday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Before long, major intersections such as the Micrl Toyota along Beach Road, in photo, will be transformed through the Saipan Mayor's Office's Project Hafa Adai.

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

"All About" Talks About Northern Marianas

"All About," a major online resource site in Japan, launched guide pages on the Northern Mariana Islands on March 22, making information on this beach resort destination more readily available to potential visitors.

The site's content (www.allabout.co.jp), which consists of articles, online courses, and multimedia, is organized into channels consisting of various topics, which are authored and maintained by freelance writers referred to as "Guides." **Chieko Koseki**, a famous freelance writer specializing in beach resorts, was chosen as the Guide for the Northern Marianas. The Marianas Visitors Authority met with Koseki in Japan and provide visuals for the site, as well as the latest information on immigration, weather, nature, tourism sites, and more.

The site has nearly 83-million page views each month, and the guide pages on **Rota** and Saipan have an estimated advertising value of $46,100.

Local

A night of prayer for Afghanistan-bound CNMI soldiers

Dozens of family members of 16 soldiers from the CNMI, along with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, other officials and community members, gathered Friday night for an evening of prayer and support for their loved ones wrapping up their training in Mississippi for their deployment to Afghanistan any time now.

"We are here for you, we are here with you," Marie Salas-Igitol told the crowd gathered in the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Her husband, U.S. Army Spc Ivan Igitol, 48, and daughter Spc Brittney Igitol, 19, are both deploying to Afghanistan.

Friday night's candlelight vigil was held simultaneously with one in Guam.

Some family members could not hold back their tears and sobs as they prayed and held lit candles for their loved ones.

The 16 soldiers from the CNMI are among the estimated 600 soldiers with the 1-294th Infantry Regiment and F Company, 29th Brigade Support Battalion of the Guam Army National Guard.

They have been training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi since leaving the Marianas in early March, before proceeding to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Your courage, love, and sacrifice are beyond any measure," Inos said as he joined family members at a candlelight vigil. "You give so much for us and our nation."

Vicente Camacho, director of the CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office, described the event as "a night of prayer and awareness."

In an interview, Salas-Igitol said the most difficult of all is missing her husband and daughter.

"And being a mother and a father at the same time is tough. But even though I sometimes break down, I need to pick myself up and I can only thank God for being always there for me. I ask for him to keep me together emotionally and mentally," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Igitol is CNMI liaison for the Guam National Guard Family Readiness Group.

Colleen Togawa, wife of U.S. Army 1Lt Joey Togawa, separately said she's happy that people came out to join the families at the candlelight vigil, which also saw the performance of the Olomwaay Family Choir and the Pacific Winds Band.

"We felt so special. I'm just really happy to see people took time out of their busy schedule to come out and offer prayers and support for family members and servicemen," she said.

Togawa said her husband was among the so-called advance team that already deployed to Afghanistan last week, to help prepare for the arrival of most members any time soon.

"When he was still in Mississippi, he would call several times a day. My daughter and I really miss him. Every picture of him she sees, she kisses it," Togawa said, adding that they are still figuring out a way to continue communicating now that her husband is in Afghanistan.

The Togawa couple has a 1-year-old daughter, Gabriella.

Besides the Igitols and Togawa, the rest of the 16 soldiers from the CNMI that are on their way to Afghanistan are Spc Dan Angelo Bicera, Spc Christopher Del Rosario, Spc Josh Ejercito, Spc Delorina Rabauliman, Spc Tiffany Santos, Spc Rita Taitano, Pfc Hainy Borja, Spc Andrew Delos Reyes, Spc Ken Mojica, PFC Nathaniel Mateo, PFC Andrew Reyes, PFC John Umbay and PV2 Elbert Espayos. Mojica and Borja are from Tinian, while the rest are from Saipan.

They are part of the largest deployment of troops for the Guam Army National Guard since its inception in 1981. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Galvin sworn in as private schools' rep

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The State Board of Education swore in Friday Galvin Deleon Guerrero as the non-public school representative on the board, a position that has been vacant for three years.

Guerrero is a former BOE representative from Saipan. He did not seek re-election during the mid-term polls to focus on his new job as president of Mount Carmel School.

On Friday, he reported that the Coalition of Private Schools in the CNMI has only 10 active members, out of the 28 private schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Deleon Guerrero said the coalition recently elected its officers.

He clarified though that despite being a legal entity now, the coalition is purely voluntary and has no legal authority over other private schools who are not members of the group.

The new BOE representative revealed that among the coalition's priorities is to establish standardized requirements for membership to the coalition that may include certification and accreditation requirements.

According to BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero, it's good to see if all 28 private schools will come together as a group in the coalition. Through this approach, he said, non-public schools can work together and police among themselves.

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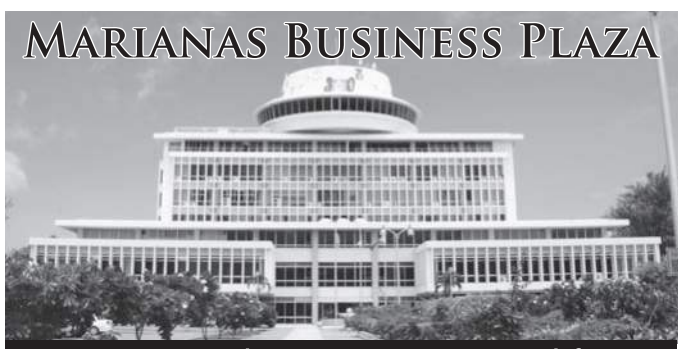
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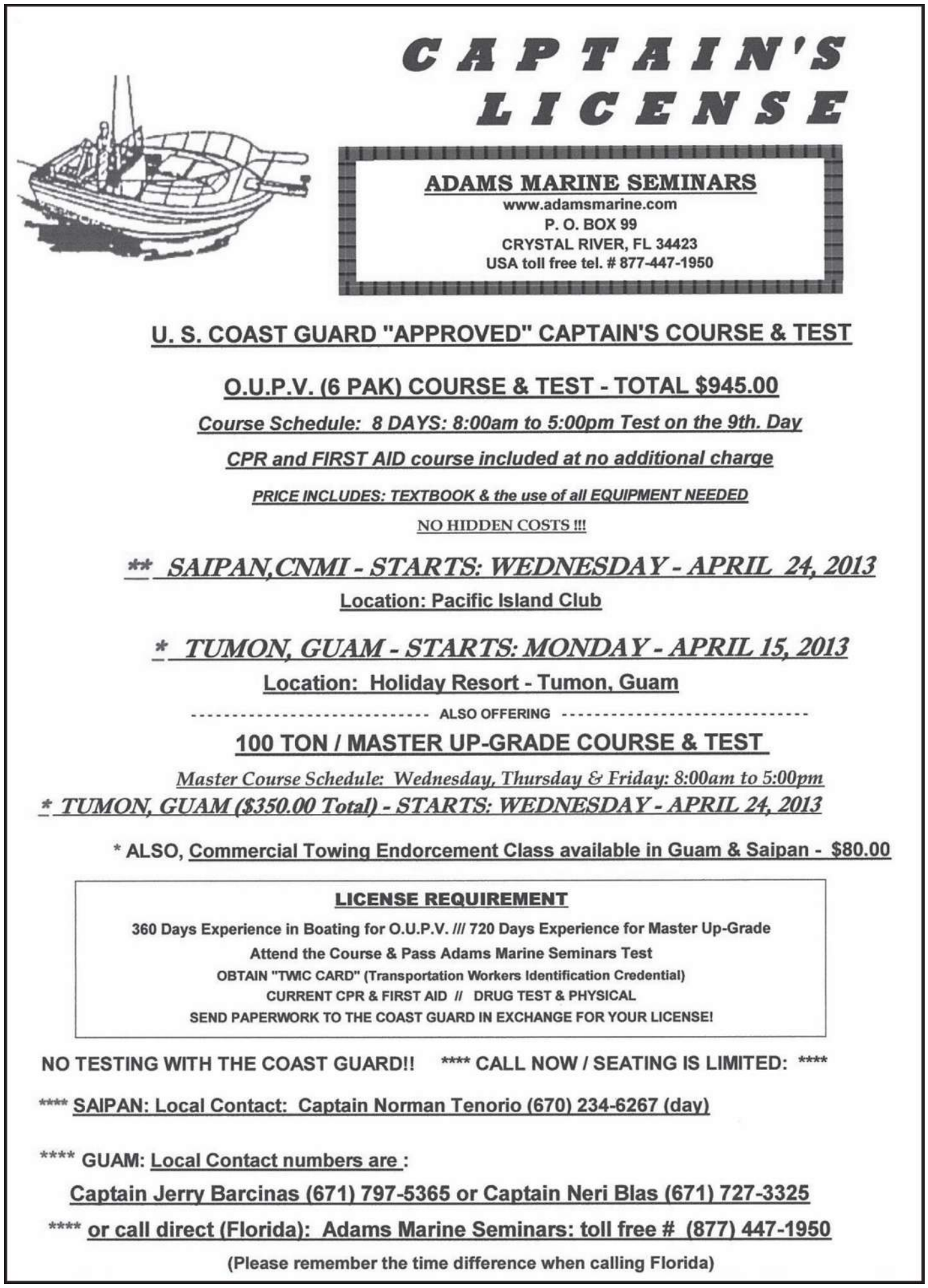
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Man convicted of manslaughter arrested for domestic violence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An ex-convict who served jail time for manslaughter in Guam was arrested on Saipan last week for allegedly beating up his wife in front of their child and pointing a gun at her.

Jesus Sablan Palacios, 52, was taken to Superior Court on Friday for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $100,000 cash.

According to the police, the wife, a Chinese national, complained that Palacios had been beating her or about 10 months now.

Police searched Palacios' residence in San Antonio on Thursday to recover three guns. It was not clear yet whether the officers' found the weapons.

Police detective Rudolph C. Sablan stated in his report that the couple's 4-year-old son disclosed that he witnessed the beating of his mother.

The boy also stated that he saw his father smoke "ice" and has four guns.

Sablan said the investigation began last Monday, April 8, when the wife called the Department of Public Safety and reported the domestic violence. When two police officers responded to the parking lot of Afetna Square Building, the victim was crying inside her car.

The victim, whose face was red, appeared scared and requested to be interviewed in another place. She was then taken to DPS Central Office in Susupe where she was interviewed.

Sablan said that, according to preliminary investigation, 10 minutes before the wife called the police, Palacios punched her in the face and head several times when she refused to give him money.

Palacios also allegedly pointed a handgun at his wife's head and threatened to kill her. The couple's son allegedly witnessed the beating.

The wife confessed that Palacios has been beating her up for several months now, but that she never reported it to the police because she's afraid and knows he is capable of killing her.

The wife also alleged that Palacios struck her with a chair on Feb. 16, 2013. As a result, she was unable to walk for a week.

The wife said that they got married in 2007. She said Palacios was arrested before on Saipan for receiving stolen property but she bailed him out.

Sablan said during his interview with the boy, the child stated he witnessed his father punching his mother's feet.

The boy also stated that his father has three small guns and one big gun.

"My daddy smoke (sic) ice," said the boy as he demonstrated to Sablan how Palacios smoke the drugs using a tube pipe.

Sablan said the wife told him that Palacios served 15 years in prison in Guam for murder.

Sablan said upon his further investigation he learned that, in 1986, Palacios was arrested and charged in Guam with aggravated assault and battery and possession and use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony.

Sablan said Palacios pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and other charges were dismissed.

Sablan said that, in 1997, Palacios was arrested again in Guam and charged with murder, manslaughter, and possession of a firearm without an identification card.

The detective said Palacios pleaded guilty to manslaughter and the other charges were dismissed.

FLU

From Page 1

He encourages the public to be proactive by practicing the Flu W.A.T.C.H. steps, especially practicing basic hygiene measures like proper and frequent hand washing, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, and staying home from work or school when ill.

Last Thursday, CHCC officials met with Inos and the CNMI Pandemic Flu Committee—made up of various governmental, private, and non-profit organizations—to provide guidance on the H7N9 situation and to review the existing CNMI Pandemic Flu Plan in order to be prepared for this evolving situation. On Friday, a meeting took place with the Airport Operations Committee members.

The CHCC is responsible for updating the CNMI Pandemic Flu Response Plan annually and is now putting it to the test. Increasing surveillance, alerting all medical providers, promoting flu prevention, and working with the entire community are all part of the plan. The CHCC also receives frequent updates from CDC and WHO and is working with local public and private agencies to monitor the situation.

CHCC will issue an advisory for medical providers detailing the case definition and mitigation steps that should be taken in screening and treating suspected H7N9 flu patients that come to their respective clinics.

To date, there are no cases of human infection with H7N9 detected in the CNMI, the United States, or any place other than China.

The corporation emphasized that there is no human-to-human transmission of H7N9 flu and that this flu is only occurring in China at this time.

"The global concern is that the H7N9 flu outbreak could become a pandemic, or an infection that spreads across a large region or worldwide. A pandemic usually occurs every 30 to 40 years and there has not been a deadly flu pandemic in more than 40 years," a statement from the administration states.

Furthermore, the concern with the H7N9 flu virus is that it is a completely new flu virus and people don't have antibodies or resistance to fight it. There is presently no vaccine for the H7N9 virus, although antiviral medication is available in the CNMI to help treat it.

Based on the current situation, and that there are no human-to-human spread of this new flu, the risk of having an outbreak in the CNMI is very low. However, the government is monitoring the situation very closely in case the threat level escalates.

Inos thanked the CHCC and the CNMI Pandemic Flu Committee for closely monitoring developments in this case.

"We had a very good meeting. I was initially concerned that in the wake of all the media coverage on North Korea, we might find ourselves unprepared to address the threat of the H7N9 virus that is spreading in parts of China. But, this is not the case, we can assure our people that we have our resources pooled to ensure that we keep a close eye on both matters that are of deep concern to the public," assured the governor.

CHCC said the best protection right now is to practice precautionary flu W.A.T.C.H. and to get vaccinated with the seasonal flu vaccine. Vaccines are available at all private clinics and at the CHC Immunization Clinic, it is free and no appointment is needed.

LAND

From Page 1

have preference? Why are other operators paying $12,000 a year but others are paying only $6,000 a year?" JGO chair Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Saipan Mayor's Office extracts coral aggregates to maintain or improve secondary roads on island.

Leon Guerrero asked for a meeting with acting DPL secretary Pete A. Tenorio on the matter.

He said the committee's concerns about the Kannat Tabla quarry "can be resolved through an open dialogue."

"I must reiterate the importance of our duty, as public servants, which is to probe and shed light on such concerns to help appease the public's growing apprehension concerning transparency in our government's transactions," Leon Guerrero told Tenorio.

Based on records that the JGO Committee gathered from DPL, the department granted GPPC Inc. an extended temporary authorization to clean and remove soil/rock materials across the Marpi landfill for one year at a fee of $6,000 a year or $500 a month.

The period covered under the extended temporary authorization was Nov. 26, 2011, to Nov. 25, 2012.

In September 2012, DPL granted USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. a temporary permit to quarry at the Kannat Tabla site for an annual rental fee of $12,000 and a royalty fee of $1.75 per cubic yard of quarry materials removed.

However, DPL at the time approved to reduce the minimum annual rental fee to $3,000 or $250 monthly "until such time the permitee secures more projects that would increase revenue and enable permittee to pay for the standard annual fee."

In October 2008, DPL granted JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc. a temporary quarry permit with a minimum annual rental fee of $12,000, and a royalty fee of $1.75 per cubic yard of quarry materials recovered from Marpi.

In July 2012, DPL granted the Saipan Mayor's Office temporary authorization to extract coral aggregates at the Marpi site, at no charge at all.

In January 2007, DPL issued a quarry and concrete/asphalt batching plant permit for Construction and Material Supply Inc. That was also for $12,000 annual rental fee and royalty fee of $1.75 per cubic yard of coral extracted from the Kannat Tabla quarry.

In April 2011, DPL also issued a temporary quarry permit to Resources Management International Corp., allowing it to extract coral at the Kannat Tabla quarry for $12,000 rental fee a year and royalty fee of $1.75 per cubic yard of material extracted.

PAGAN

From Page 1

plan, Tinian could have 200 to 300 U.S. Marines at any given week but the military could develop the training areas to accommodate as much as 1,000 troops.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Friday night a unified position is forthcoming, and that the CNM will prepare for discussions and negotiations with DoD on its plans for the two islands.

The previous Fitial administration had offered to lease Pagan and other Northern Islands to foreign investors to generate revenue for the dwindling CNMI economy at the time.

Craig B. Whelden, executive director of the Marine Forces Pacific out of Camp Smith in Hawaii, said the military is "at the beginning stages" of its planning process "so there are a lot of uncertainties right now."

"And the purpose of our trip [last] week is gather information, hear from the residents, hear their concerns, so we can take that in consideration," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tinian and Pagan's use will address the DoD's unit level and combined level training deficiencies in the Western Pacific.

Guam training areas are already being used to capacity.

The three scoping meetings that the military held last week on Saipan and Tinian were meant to hear directly from CNMI people, businesses, and other local and federal agencies about their concerns and answer their questions.

Among the major concerns are the residents' safety given that the U.S. military will conduct live-fire training using 155-milimeter artillery round and several kinds of mortar rounds; noise impact; impacts on the environment; impacts on commercial aviation and tourism; and impacts on historical and cultural sites, among other things.

At the scoping meeting at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Friday night, residents took turns expressing their concerns. Some expressed their outright opposition to the military's planned use of Pagan.

DoD said that Pagan, with no permanent residents, could support naval gunfire training and aviation ordnance delivery training.

Maneuver space also exists, mainly throughout Pagan's middle section, which is accessible from the beaches. Pagan's beaches could also support amphibious operations training.

Jocelyn Kapileo, a Garapan resident whose family is originally from the Northern Islands including Pagan, said a group will be formed to oppose military plans for Pagan at a time when residents want to resettle there.

April 29, 2013, is the deadline for submitting comments to DoD's "Notice of Intent to Prepare the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement" that was published in the Federal Register on March 14.

More information is available at www.cnmijointmilitarytrainingeis.com.

Below are excerpts from an interview with both Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig B. Whelden and deputy director William S. Febuary.

***Saipan Tribune*: What does the military plan to do on Tinian and Pagan?**

Whelden: We started off looking at what we call training hubs around the Pacific region. We looked at Japan, we looked at Hawaii, we looked at Korea, and we looked at [the] CNMI to determine which of those areas, all of which are large concentrations of United States military, have the greatest training shortfalls. And the answer was the CNMI. Tinian and Pagan turned out to be the two islands where we have the most potential.

Tinian, primarily because we have existing DoD leased land there. Somewhere between one-half and two thirds of the island is DoD-leased land. And Pagan, because it has the most capability for us to do what we call combined arms maneuver and live-fire. All the other Northern Islands, most of which we can't do any training on because of the topography of the islands themselves—deep cliffs, no ability to move around the island and so forth.

Q: Why not Guam?

Whelden: We have limited capability in Guam. As you may know, about 25 percent of the island is Department of Defense property now. And we are looking at Guam to put upwards of 5,000 Marines there in the coming years. So we need a place for them to work and a place for them to live. And then we need some individual level training in Guam but we can only do up to a certain level of training in Guam, what we call individual and cruise served-training with 50-caliber machine gun and below.

So when you get more sophisticated training requirements which we have, you need greater space than is available in Guam. So the next level of training which we call unit-level training, we would conduct in Tinian, and then the combined arms, where we pull it all together—air, sea, ground—would be done in Pagan. So it's kind of like one might think of as a crawl-walk-run approach to training.

Q: Would you lease Pagan or portions of it for military training?

Whelden: We would negotiate the use of Pagan by whatever means is appropriate. That could be leasing of Pagan from CNMI, it could be. But I can't emphasize enough, we are at the beginning stages of this so there are a lot of uncertainties right now.

Q: If leasing Pagan is among the options, how long would that lease be?

Whelden: It's all in front of us. We would need to sit down with the government of CNMI to talk to them about that. That's all in front of us.

Q: There are some people living in Pagan and others on Saipan want to resettle in Pagan. What is your plan for these residents?

Whelden: That's all in front of us. We are aware that there some people there right now. We are aware there are other people who would like to return. If I'm no mistaken, it is not legal to be there right now because of some safety [issues]. The CNMI government directed that nobody live there because of the volcanic activity there. But how we make arrangements with anybody who might want to live there permanently as permanent residents are all part of the discussion that's in front of us. It's just too early to make any conclusion about that.

To be continued.

CNMI budget could go up to some $120M—Inos

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said his proposed fiscal year 2014 budget could go up to some $120 million, more than the earlier estimate of $114 million for government operations because of a steady increase in tourist arrivals. The tourism industry growth is expected to continue throughout the year.

If and when Inos submits this week a $120 million budget proposal to the Legislature, this would place the fiscal year 2014 budget back to the level of 1990.

The CNMI budget breached the $200 million mark in fiscal year 1996 before peaking at $247 million in fiscal year 1997. Since then, it has been almost downhill due to the slowdown in tourism and garment manufacturing. The last garment factory shut down four years ago.

"It can get around $120 million. We're heading there," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* and KSPN 2 during a candlelight vigil for the Guam Army National Guard on Friday night in Susupe.

But he said there might still be some change in the amount up until the budget package is sent to the Legislature.

"There's a steady increase. The rate of increase remains the same, low or high [season for tourism]," the governor added.

At this time, there's no telling how much will go to the NMI Retirement Fund which, without immediate of cash, could expire by March 2014.

Inos said the 2014 appropriation for the Fund will be more than the current fiscal year's $10 million but it's still going to be short of the annual requirement. This is why the administration and the Legislature are looking for ways to generate more revenue and cut costs to be able to give more to the pension agency.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said yesterday that every time there's an upward adjustment in projected revenue, it is "welcome news" because this means there would be more funding for public services.

"Personally, it would make our job a bit easier in terms of juggling our limited resources around to meet public service needs. If the budget is going to be $120 million, it means we're seeing improved tourism economy. But until we receive the budget, we won't know how much will go to what," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The governor reiterated that his proposed budget will reflect mergers and consolidation of agencies and programs, and privatization of certain government functions for efficiency and cost reduction.

Inos as the new governor has until May 1 to submit a budget to the Legislature.

Babauta snubs board meeting

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Board says CEO group's trip to Tinian unjustified

Members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board lambasted CEO Juan N. Babauta anew after the official snubbed Friday's board meeting and decided to go on what the board described as an "unjustified" trip to Tinian at the expense of the financially challenged corporation.

Board chair Joaquin Torres said that Babauta wrote him an email informing him about a scheduled visit to the Tinian Health Center but Torres denied receiving any prior information or any explanation why the Tinian trip was important.

Board vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz said the CEO's action shows his "misguided priority" for the corporation.

"The CEO has to explain and justify that trip. I am not going to vote for him to be excused in today's meeting, [during] which we are going to discuss a very important agenda—the budget. For him not to attend this meeting, I can see this as a misguided priority on his part!" said Dela Cruz, whose sentiments were echoed by board member Roy Rios.

Adding to the board's fury was the revelation that Babauta did not go to Tinian alone but was accompanied by six others who are non-CHCC personnel and whose travel fare and per diem were paid by the corporation.

"Why is CHCC is paying for this trip? This is really something we have to look into," Rios told his colleagues.

Babauta also missed the weekly conference call of the CHCC governing body with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Friday.

Based on corporation records, Babauta went to Tinian with two Senate members, Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) and Victor Hocog (R-Rota) and three House representatives: John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan), and Roman Benavente (IR-Saipan). One legislative staffer, Betsy Cruz, joined the group.

It was disclosed that CHCC paid for these individuals' fare amounting to $49 per person and $125 per diem allowance. It was not immediately learned if the CHCC also paid for the group's overnight stay on the island.

Calls to Babauta were not returned yesterday, while some lawmakers in the group who were called refused to answer calls.

Public Health director Roxanne Diaz explained that the Tinian trip is related to some Medicaid and Medicare issues as well as the Healthcare Impact Bill. She said she was supposed to join the visit.

"They actually requested my participation. [When] I talked to the CEO last night [Thursday night], he recommended that I attend today's meeting," Diaz told the board.

The CHCC board recently voted not to renew Babauta's contract, which is expiring on July 9. Gov. Eloy S. Inos has yet to decide on the issue as of press time.

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Absentee voting starts for Filipino voters

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipinos in the CNMI now have the chance to take part in their country's May 2013 elections as the process of the overseas absentee voting officially began on Saturday.

As this developed, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam expects a decline in the number of registered Filipino voters who will actually participate in the mid-term polls.

The Guam consulate has taken over the consular responsibilities in the Northern Marianas following the closure of its counterpart on Saipan after Oct. 31, 2012.

"While we hope that Filipinos in the CNMI would exercise their right of suffrage, we already expect that the turnout for the May elections will be influenced by the lack of a consulate on island," Guam Consul General Bayani V. Mangibin said in a phone interview on Friday.

For this election, Filipino voters in the Commonwealth began to receive directly from the Philippine Commission on Elections their official ballots a week or two ago. With the closure of the Saipan Consulate late last year, Filipino voters will have to participate in next month's election through postal voting.

Mangibin said they do not have any data on the actual number of registered Filipino voters in the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune files show that the Saipan consulate recorded during the May 2010 national elections a total of 7,169 registered voters, with 46.6 or 3,341 casting their ballots. That made it the second highest turnout among Philippine consulates across the U.S.

Saipan Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig, before the closure of the consulate, emphasized that the number had trickled down after the 2010 election since many Filipinos have gone back to the Philippines or have moved to other countries.

Mangibin said the Guam consulate understands the limitations that Filipinos in the CNMI have to deal with because of the absence of a consulate that will serve as a polling place and because of the visa requirement to travel to the nearest consulate.

"However, I am still hopeful that those who received their ballots by mail will exercise their right to vote. This will be their chance to participate in a democratic process that would elect the future leaders of our great country," he said.

Filipino voters will elect 12 of 33 senatorial candidates and one of 133 party-list aspirants.

A Filipino worker in Garapan, who declined to be identified, said he will cast his ballot but remains undecided on which candidates to vote for.

"I do believe that every vote counts and that we voters should select only those who run based on platform, not by popularity or family ties with other government officials, past or present," he said.

Not all registered Filipino voters in the CNMI received their official ballots in their mail, according to Guam consulate passport officer Francisco Magno.

Magno said some 244 of these ballots were mailed to the Guam consulate for several reasons, including incorrect addresses. He urged Filipinos in the Commonwealth to check on their website and see if they are among the 244 and should notify the Guam consulate by calling 682-2222.

Magno also reminded voters to double check their ballots and make sure that they have their thumb mark on the ballot, as well as their printed name and signature on the upper left side of the electoral mail or envelope.

He said voters can have their ballots hand-delivered to the Guam consulate by a friend or anyone they trust, sent by postal mail or courier service. For the postal mail option, the stamps should not conceal the part of the envelope that shows the voter's name or the envelope number.

Magno emphasized that their office will accept ballots that are received no later than 7pm Manila time (9pm local time) on May 13, a Monday.

For more information, visit www.philippinesguam.org, Agana PCG Facebook account or call 682-2222.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman High Class of '04 reunion meeting

The Kagman High School Class of 2004 will have a class reunion meeting on May 7, Tuesday, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion, across JP Center Bldg., Garapan, at 6:30pm. All classmates are urged to be present and should also help pass the information to other classmates. For more information or inquiry, email ayuyu2004reunion@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on April 23

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

SVES registration schedule

San Vicente Elementary School registration for school year 2013-2014 is scheduled to begin on May 27-31, 2012 for Kinder only, from 9am- 11:30am in the school main office.

For all kinder, child must be 5 years on or before Aug. 31, 2008, as per BOE policy. Date of birth should be between Sept. 1, 2007, and Aug. 31, 2008. Registration requirements: copy of birth certificate, original health certificate (public or private clinic), medical or accident insurance, map of residential location, power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applicable), and copy of report card or certificate of completion (from any pre-school). For more information call 237-3791. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Edward R. Santos! An inspiration to all, a real life hero, a self-made man, strong outside but caring inside, you are the best dad. Wishing you a very happy birthday! With love, your children and grand children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GOOD JOB!

Congratulations Dustin Ross D. Salilin, for making it to the Mt. Carmel School President's List for SY 2012-2013. We're so proud of you, Dada! We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Titos, and Titas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili: Obama budgets $5M hike in aid for insular areas

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said that President Barack Obama's proposed fiscal year 2014 budget reflects a $5-million increase in technical assistance funding for insular areas but as of yesterday, there's no telling how much will go toward the CNMI.

"The additional $5 million would be available for direct grants for projects proposed by island governments and individual organizations," Sablan said.

On Wednesday, Obama proposed to Congress a $3.77-trillion budget for 2014 that would cut deficits by $1.8 trillion over the next decade.

The president's 2,460-page budget has already drawn criticism from the left and the right, offering changes to Medicare and Social Security. It also includes tax increases that would primarily hit high-income households and corporations.

Sablan said that fiscal year 2013 direct grants have not been awarded yet but in 2012, these technical assistance monies were awarded to assist victims of sexual assault, for classroom instructional technology, for tourism outreach programs, and to buy police patrol cars, fire trucks, and ambulances.

"The funding is awarded on a competitive basis. The total proposed for these direct grants is $10.2 million," Sablan said. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Korean businessman files 2nd libel case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A businessman has filed a slander and libel suit against a man and nine other unnamed persons for allegedly fabricating reports that accuse him of, among other things, engaging in sex abuse and stealing a flagpole.

Hong Kyun Kim is suing Byung Soo Jeon and nine unnamed co-defendants in Superior Court. All are Korean citizens.

Kim, through counsel Stephen J. Nutting, is demanding $600,000 in damages, plus court costs and attorney's fees.

According to the complaint, defendant Jeon holds himself out to be the chairman of a group called the "Emergency Measure Committee" and member of the Korean Community Association of Saipan.

However, Nurtting said, the organization and establishment of the so-called "Emergency Measure Committee" was not approved by the board of directors of the Korean Community Association of Saipan.

In January 2012, the lawyer said, the defendants conspired to create the committee in an attempt to expel Kim from the organization.

Nutting said that on Jan. 11, 18, and 25, 2013, the defendants published in a Korean newspaper an article written in the Korean language with the heading "Expulsion of a Korean Community of Saipan Member."

Nurtting said the publication was distributed throughout Saipan.

The article, under the banner of the Saipan Korean Community Association, purported to notify other Koreans living on Saipan of Kim's expulsion from the Korean Community of Saipan.

Nutting said the Saipan Korean Community Association did not approve the publication.

"The words and depiction contained within the publication [alleged that] the plaintiff was responsible for numerous, negligent, tortious, criminal, and reprehensible acts, none of which were true," the lawyer said.

Nutting said the libelous statements include allegations that Kim fraudulently used the association's logo and made false reports relative to his activities in promotion of various events on the island.

Nutting said Kim was also accused of filing a false report related to the Korean Learning School's efforts to file false documentats to receive Earned Tax Credits that resulted in an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service.

Kim was also accused of misusing the press and the *Saipan Times* newspapers to make false and biased reports in an effort to confuse and delude the Korean community.

Nutting said the other libelous statements include that plaintiff had been involved in sexual abuse case 10 years ago and caused the theft of a flagpole at the Commemoration Tower in Marpi.

Nutting said Kim is known for his charitable acts and efforts to improve not only the Korean community but the entire CNMI. Then governor Benigno R. Fitial even appointed Kim as a volunteer special economic advisor.

Last February, Kim also filed a $1-million slander and libel lawsuit against the president of the Saipan Korean Community Association for allegedly distributing a publication accusing him of, among other things, committing multiple rape and sexual attacks.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD13-RFP-002

RECEIVE, PROCESS AND MARKET SOURCE SEPARATED RECYCLABLES/OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) AT LOWER BASE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION, SAIPAN

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through Acting Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals to **Receive, Process and Market Source Separated Recyclables/Operation and Maintenance of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station (LBRTS)** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **April 15, 2013** at the DPW, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division Office. **A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** is schedules at **10:00 a.m., local time** on **May 01, 2013** at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station Conference Room. **Questions regarding this RFP** must be submitted in writing to Solid Waste Management Division, Pagu Avenue, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 322-2762 no later than **4:30 p.m. local time, May 06, 2013**.

EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with NMIAC §70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Rules and Regulations as revised. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Technical Requirements:

1.) Qualifications and Experience of the Firm-20%
2.) Experience or equivalent on similar projects-20%
3.) Technical Approach-35%
4.) Cost-25%

Cost:

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with the overall merit of the proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination to conformance with the Procurement Regulations Section 3-301 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Proposers must submit an original and four (4) copies of signed; sealed proposals marked **DPW/SWMD-13-RFP-002 "Receive, Process and Market Source Separated Recyclables/Operation and Maintenance of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Lower Base Transfer Station (LBRTS)"** to the office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, May 15, 2013**. Proposal submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 15, 2013** and must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive by **May 24, 2013**. Proposers outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, of their intent to submit in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual proposal documents. This notice of intent to submit may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to 670-664-1515 or email to procurement@pticom.com but must be received no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, May 15, 2013**.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

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Address:	300 N. Los Angeles Street, Suite 4100 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Office/Fax:	Inquire by email only
Email Address:	taniel.baghdikian@gsa.gov

Heather Kennedy appointed Clerk of the District Court

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has appointed Heather L. Kennedy to serve as Clerk of Court at the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. Kennedy takes office on April 15, 2013.

Kennedy

She was selected from a field of highly qualified professionals from throughout the United States, who were vetted by a three-member merit selection panel. She succeeds Galo L. Perez, who retired in November 2012 after serving 21 years at the District Court.

Kennedy has more than 17 years of legal experience. Prior to joining the federal court, Kennedy served as executive director of the Law Revision Commission and General Counsel to the NMI Judiciary, as well as the High School Mock Trial Coordinator for the CNMI Bar Association. From 1999 to 2007, she worked as legal counsel and Equal Employment Opportunity Officer for the CNMI Public School System.

Before moving to Saipan, she worked as a litigation associate for a corporate law firm in St. Louis, Missouri, and as an assistant public defender in Charlotte, North Carolina. Born in New York and raised in Connecticut, she graduated with honors in Economics and English from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, and earned her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

"I look forward to Ms. Kennedy's leadership at the Clerk of Court's Office. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in judicial administration, making her a great addition to our court," said Manglona.

For her part, Kennedy stated, "I am honored to have been selected for the position. I look forward to working with the staff in the Office of the Clerk of Court and am eager to make a positive contribution to the District Court." ***(U.S. District Court for the NMI)***

Woman allegedly found in possession of pot and 'ice'

A female ex-convict was arrested Thursday in San Antonio for alleged possession of 9.65 gross grams of marijuana and a glass paraphernalia that contained "ice" residue.

When a police officer asked her who owns the six baggies containing green leafy substances that were seized from her, Remedio Palacios Islam allegedly replied, "Me doll, I like to smoke marijuana."

The 46-year-old Islam was taken to Superior Court on Friday for possession of controlled substance.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $5,000 cash bail for Islam's temporary release.

Police detective Flora Danica B. Aguon stated in her report that she arrested Islam while she and other detectives were executing a search warrant on Thursday morning for another defendant in San Antonio.

Aguon said that Islam was in possession of a bag that contained six baggies of green leafy substances and other drug paraphernalia.

The detective said the suspect admitted to owning the marijuana.

Aguon said a field test indicated that the green substance was positive for marijuana, while the residue in the glass was positive for methamphetamine or "ice."

Islam was reportedly arrested in 1996 for drug related crimes and was subsequently imprisoned. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
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PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) UNITS REGULAR PICK UP TRUCKS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of two (2) unit's regular pick-up trucks, standard transmission, and 4 cylinder engines with air conditioning. All other specifications are as per factory installation.

The proposal shall attach a factory warranty and must be able to provide 2 years maintenance and service agreement for the two (2) vehicles. Proposers shall guarantee delivery of these vehicles to CPA within 120 days from closing date of this proposal and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of two (2) regular pick-up trucks. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, April 26, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposal shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director
04/9/13
DATE

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.o. Box 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300 • 3302 FAX (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

Postponement of Parole Hearing Executive Meeting

This is to inform the general public that due to unforeseen circumstances, the Parole Hearings and Executive Meeting scheduled for, April 17 and 18, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the Vicente Taman Seman Building , Department of Corrections, Briefing & Training Room, Susupe, is hereby postpone.

The new date of the parole hearing will be announced at a later date.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Parole Office at 664-3300 or 3302. Again, I apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. **VICENTE E. SANTOS and JOSEPHINE F. SANTOS,** Defendants. — **Civil Action No. 10-0294** — **NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 13th day of June, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **29th day of April, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 443, containing an area of 780 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 09 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4176, dated December 3, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer of his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the tile and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 8th day of March, 2013.

/s/Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiffs, -v- **ALEINA D. HOFSCHNEIDER, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER, and LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER,** Defendants. — **CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0505**

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot 005 I 547, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered on May 14, 1982, as Document No. 14232, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and (b) Lot 1734 NEW-7-5 (formerly part of Lot 1734 NEW-3, which was part of original Lot 1734, T.D. 661), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2017/90, the original of which was recorded on November 15, 1989, as Document No. 89-3805, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 3, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of March, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 15, 2004

Senate passes $10M bill for homesteader loans

The Senate passed yesterday legislation that would authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to make available some $10 million for the Marianas Public Lands Authority's use in establishing programs that would provide loans to homesteaders. The bill, dubbed as the proposed Northern Marianas Decent Home Financing Act of 2004, was approved by the upper house in yesterday's session. The bill, authored by Sen. Luis Crisostimo, now heads to the House of Representatives for similar passage. The bill came about after many homesteaders were found unable to comply with the homestead requirements to build a house within a specific time due to lack of financial means.

Stanley asks court to dismiss case against him

Ex-congressman Stanley Torres has asked the court to annul the summons and criminal information charging him and two former legislative staff for their alleged involvement in a fraudulent scheme of compensating government monies to a ghost employee. The former lawmaker, through lawyer Robert Torres, anchored his request on the absence of the name of the Attorney General in the charging documents, saying that the CNMI Constitution requires the attorney general to prosecute criminal cases. "Though the [attorney general] may designate and authorize subordinates to sign a criminal information, all charging documents require the [attorney general's] name. That has not occurred here, an anomaly perhaps, but such a requirement is a substantive constitutional provision," said Torres.

Apr. 15, 2005

Commerce to go after 'illegal' poker arcades

The government will launch an all-out enforcement operation against illegal poker operators CNMI-wide to enhance collections and discourage the proliferation of unlicensed poker arcades in the Commonwealth. Finance Secretary Fermin M. Atalig and Commerce Secretary Andrew Salas signed a new memorandum of agreement yesterday, setting forth the specific functions of Finance that are transferred now to Commerce. Salas said that after 30 days, the government would know how many poker arcades are operating illegally. He said his department would ensure that only licensed machines are being used.

Senators: No need for Manila liaison office

Following a visit to Guam, senators have become more convinced that putting up a liaison office in Manila is unnecessary. Five senators, including Senate minority leader Pete P. Reyes, who has heavily opposed the proposed liaison office, met with Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and other Guam officials Friday to discuss a possible joint referral program and learn more about Guam's referral system in Manila. Other senators who met with Camacho included majority leader Paul Manglona, Senate Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare Program chair Henry San Nicolas, Luis Crisostimo, and Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs chair Joseph Mendiola.

Apr. 15, 2007

CPA likely to OK Tinian's wish for ILS

Although it is not endorsed by the Federal Aviation Administration and funding continues to be a problem, the Commonwealth Ports Authority may just go with the wishes of the Tinian Legislative Delegation to install an instrument landing system on Tinian. The CPA board has not signed an agreement with FAA for the installation of an ILS. "We will be signing it after our consultation with the municipality of Tinian. I'm sure there would be no problem because the president of the Senate is very much in favor of the project. It's all green light from them," said CPA board chair Rex I. Palacios. The agreement, which is to be signed by both the CPA and FAA, has been ready since last year but remains on hold for signing due to a number of issues.

SCC to govt: Give us 'employable' locals

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is calling on the government, including the Northern Marianas College, to provide the private sector with "employable"-rather than "trainable"-workers. "What we need are employable locals. We want to employ, not train people. Training is the job of the government. Training and preparing workers is the job of NMC's vocational program," said Chamber president Juan I. Guerrero during the group's monthly meeting Wednesday at Saipan Grand Hotel. He cited that part of the nonresident workers' fees that employers pay the Department of Labor is meant for the government's vocational program.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work entails providing maintenance services for a period of two (2) years for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the Scope of Work and Evaluation Factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Thursday, March 14, 2013. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Monday, APRIL 15, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) price, (2) relevant experience, (3) sufficiency of workers, (4) most recent financial statement and (5) insurance requirements.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the Scope of Work at the Office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 25, 2013 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project which will be followed by a walk-through of the Air Traffic Control Tower facility. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670) 234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offer or due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for service.

Offerors will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned submission date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV-100

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Drill Rig on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project Scope of Work and Proposal Forms will be available on or after **April 8, 2013** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 AM**, on **April 19, 2013**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on **April 18, 2013**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-205. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-100**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time **May 8, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time **May 8, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 8, 2013**, and must be received by **May 17, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, **May 20, 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on **May 8, 2013**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV-083

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Puerto Rico One Million Gallon Reservoir Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior and the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA and EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Demolition Work: The Demolition Work of this Contract comprises of the demolition and disposal of existing one million gallon (MG) Puerto Rico welded steel tank to include but is not limited to its tank concrete foundations, yard piping, concrete vaults, and appurtenances. And the installation and construction of temporary bypass piping and its appurtenances.
- New Work: The New Work of this Contract comprises of the construction of a one MG nominal capacity welded steel Tank to include but is not limited to its concrete foundation, access manways, ladders and tank appurtenances, earthwork, site work to include asphalt paved access and perimeter drive and perimeter security chain link fence and access gates, piping, utility tie-in connections, protective interior and exterior tank coatings, flow meters, valves, concrete vaults, concrete headwalls, cathodic protection to include its design and installation, disinfection, testing, startup, and appurtenant work, as shown and specified, complete and operable, in accordance with the Contract Documents.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **April 15, 2013** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **April 26, 2013**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **April 25, 2013**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-083**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 15, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **May 15, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 15, 2013**, and must be received no later than **May 24, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **May 28, 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **May 15, 2013**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-017

Supply and Delivery of Materials and Tools for CUC Water Well Upgrade Project

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water well upgrade project in Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water wells upgrade project, Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Form. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 8, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org and Robert Malate, Water/Wastewater, Engineer via email robert.malate@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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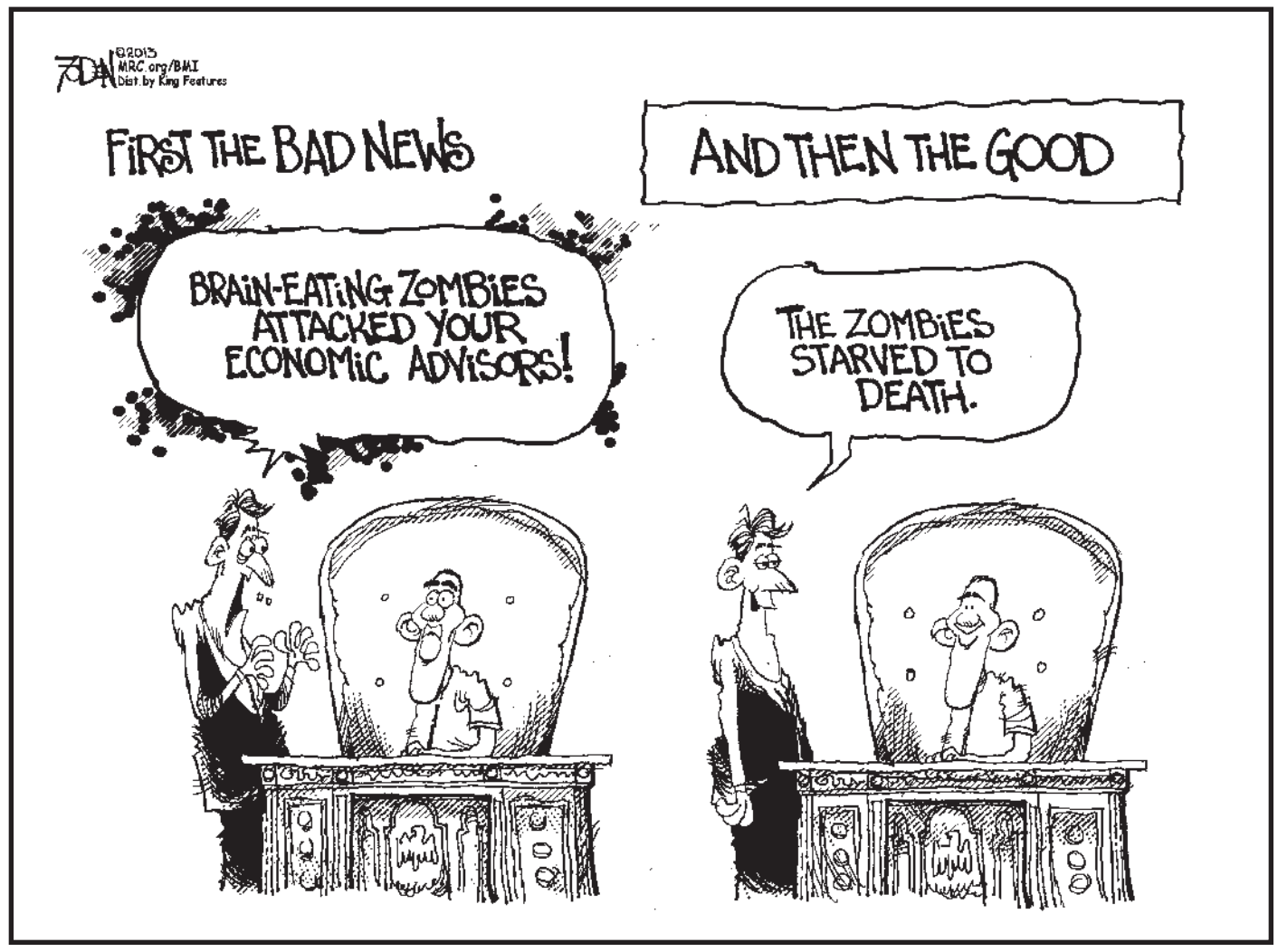
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FIRST THE BAD NEWS
BRAIN-EATING ZOMBIES ATTACKED YOUR ECONOMIC ADVISORS!
AND THEN THE GOOD
THE ZOMBIES STARVED TO DEATH.

EDITORIAL

Bill Gates' warning on test scores

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Thursday, April 11:*

A recent op-ed article in the *Washington Post* warned against overusing students' standardized test scores in evaluating how well teachers are doing their jobs. There would be no surprise about that—if it had been penned by the leader of a teachers union. But it was written by Bill Gates, arguably the most influential voice over the last few years in pushing for the use of test scores to rate teachers.

Gates' warning was based on a study released in January that his foundation funded. It determined that student scores have a useful but limited place in measuring a teacher's work, and that some other measurements, such as student surveys, are more consistent.

The billionaire philanthropist's reasoned perspective is appreciated; the problem is that schools in this country are already well down the testing-and-evaluations road. Prodded heavily by reform groups, many of which receive funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, states and school districts have in some cases taken the use of students' scores to extremes that have no grounding in research, making them count for half or more of a teacher's rating, or hastily concocting tests to measure unmeasurable subjects—and then applying the results to teachers. The most mocked example is Ohio's extensive new exam in physical education, which includes measuring whether students' movements while skipping are adequately smooth.

In 2010, California was denied $700 million in federal Race to the Top funds, largely because it declined to require that student test scores be linked to teacher ratings—something the Obama administration had demanded in return for the money, even though there was little if any evidence that the scores had value as indicators of a teacher's work.

The Gates Foundation has a deserved reputation for testing its education hypotheses with expansive, high-quality studies. It rightly abandoned its previous campaign for high schools to enroll no more than 500 students after funding a study that found that smaller enrollments alone did not have a big impact on student achievement. But again, because the foundation's billions were behind the small-school movement, districts across the nation switched to that more expensive model, which is hard for them to undo now.

The new study on teacher evaluations contains interesting findings, but much more research is needed.

When philanthropists have potentially useful ideas about education, they should by all means try them out, establish pilot programs, put their money where their mouths are. But before government officials incorporate those ideas into policy, they must study them carefully and make sure that what sounds reasonable in theory works in practice.

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It's back to the 'fast buck' daydreams

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The other day the newspaper reported that some legislators have introduced a bill to allow casino gaming on Saipan. This will be the third time voters will be asked to decide. There is also a casino scheduled for Rota and even another one on Tinian. Wow! What a great idea. And guess what? Most of the money earned from them will be used to fund the Retirement Fund, which is expected to go bust by March 2014. Gosh, we better hurry.

In the newspaper was a photo of the legislator pushing for a fast fix to our ailing economy. On another page were photos of school children doing various activities. As I reflected on the concept of more casinos and the photos of the school children, I thought what are we thinking about? Is this the future we are going to give our children?

Let's ask ourselves how successful has the Tinian Dynasty been over the past 13 or 14 years? Name the benefits the local citizens have reaped? Has the Commonwealth reaped huge taxes? Didn't it recently forgive the Dynasty millions of tax dollars as a friendly write off? Didn't the papers report just the past week that the employees of the Dynasty haven't been paid for the last six payrolls? What! A casino not paying its employees?

How many local jobs has the casino created for the local people? Have any of them learned a profession or a trade as a result of the casino? How many locals are employed there? In general, has casino gambling brought prosperity and happiness to the people of Tinian? One last question about the Tinian Dynasty: Why is it searching for new owners?

Has the poker industry on Saipan helped us to obtain a better life? How many of us have thrown our hard-earned cash into those money suckers and walked away cursing them. But next payday we return again like addicts. How many of us have won any money from them?

Have we the citizens become better skilled and professional workers because of them? Are the poker machines a business of pride that we proudly show off to our tourists? Oh, by the way, why don't the hotels have poker machines in their lobbies if they are such a great business? Instead we spray them around our neighborhoods. Why is that?

If your answers to all of my questions is "Yes, the Tinian casino and the poker machines are a great benefit to our economy!" then stop reading my dribble and move on the sports page. But if your answer is "No!" then we must sit down and question why gambling is not the solution to our economical problems before we plunge into more ventures of this type. There is more to just opening up a casino to make a success of it.

I fully realize that we are desperate for money and are searching for a better life. But what price are we willing to pay to obtain these two objectives? What are we willing to sacrifice? Why aren't we cultivating our natural resources? Are there no other diamonds under our feet?

In all of my years of studies, travels, and of living in different countries, I have learned that for a nation to become strong and prosperous, it must create a skilled and professional workforce coupled with an entrepreneurial spirit. A nation must create and earn its own wealth. No one will give it to us. This is the only way we will survive and keep sustaining ourselves over the years. We must explore deeply our natural resources, cultivate them, and export them. We have the resources but do we have the determination?

Let's discuss for the next few minutes that we want money and are willing to pay any price to get it. OK, let's really promote casinos and poker machines. Let's strive to become the gambling mecca of the Pacific. Let's legalize casino gambling and put out more poker machines in the neighborhoods. Let the money flow.

Now let's add some spice—women! Let's legalize houses of prostitution and collect a kickback for every dollar they earn. Many other countries have legalized prostitution. Check it out. Think of all the extra income with no investment or expense to us. Of course, all the bars will be allowed to stay open all night. After all people who will come here are swingers. They sleep in the daytime and play in the nighttime.

Now that we are really into it, let's develop another recreation that involves little or no money but will have plenty of customers. Let's legalize some drugs and sell them legally to anybody. Imagine all the money from this activity. Look up what Portugal has been doing since it legalized many drugs. To sum it up—let's do more gambling casinos, more poker machines, houses of prostitution, plus selling of drugs. These all add up to millions of dollars in a very short time. We will be rich!

But don't worry we are not going to have any problems. Remember, we are going to regulate all of these so what is the problem? We need and want the money for the Retirement Fund. Forget the fact that it was the government who didn't pay into the Fund even though it deducted the from the employees' salaries and did not match it.

But along with the points made about earning "fast bucks," I hear people talking about our culture and the need to preserve it. Can we have it both ways? How will we live with ourselves after we sell our

See DAYDREAMS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

New approach to North Korea

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

What to do about Kim Jong Un, the world's greatest showman, who is noisily threatening a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and preparing to test a missile that could reach Guam?

Politicians and pundits are furiously debating the answer, but I've heard no ideas likely to persuade North Korea's twenty-something leader to behave better. That is, until Tuesday, when a prominent South Korean legislator suggested a response that would be bitterly opposed by Washington (and Beijing and Pyongyang).

I could hear the gasps as Chung Mong-joon, a former leader of South Korea's governing party, told the Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference in Washington that South Korea should build its own bomb.

"Diplomacy has failed. Persuasion has failed. Carrots ... have all failed," Chung said. He's correct. Time after time, U.S. and international overtures to Pyongyang (including President Obama's) have been met with bluster, threats, and deception. When accords were signed that could have led to the normalization of U.S.-North Korean relations in return for denuclearization, the terms and the spirit were violated as North Korea continued its pursuit of weapons.

Not only did Pyongyang develop a secret program to enrich uranium, but it became a notorious proliferator, offering nuclear know-how and/or materiels to Pakistan, Syria and Iran.

South Korea, too, was bamboozled. Over the past decade, "South Korea transferred nearly $10 billion worth of cash, goods, and aid to North Korea," Chung noted, in its effort to encourage reconciliation. Even as North Korea took the gifts, it kept developing nukes and long-range missiles.

Chung believes that North Korea never had any intention of ending its nuclear program. Given what happened to Saddam Hussein and Libya's Moammar Gadhafi — who halted their programs — Kim is even less likely to end it now.

Instead, the Hermit Kingdom threatens to engulf Seoul in a "sea of flames," using inflammatory language never heard during the U.S.-Soviet nuclear standoff. Even those who dismiss Kim's rhetoric fear his recklessness might trigger an unintended disaster.

Chung's conclusion: "The only thing that kept the Cold War cold was the mutual deterrence afforded by nuclear weapons." He wants South Korea to "match North Korea's nuclear progress step by step, while committing to stop if North Korea stops."

The restoration of dialogue with North Korea would remain an option, but only if denuclearization topped the agenda. Success, says Chung, "will depend on whether you have a powerful deterrent. Not just sweet incentives and good intentions."

Of course, the Obama administration opposes a South Korean bomb (as have previous administrations), and insists the U.S. nuclear umbrella is sufficient.

If South Korea begins a weapons program, it would have to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (it has a legal right to do so as a member in good standing). This could trigger an East Asian nuclear arms race, with Japan (or even Taiwan) following suit.

The thought of such an arms race worries the administration, but this very real prospect could provide the administration with a strategic club.

What do I mean? As Secretary of State John Kerry heads for East Asia, his main goal seems to be to persuade China to curb its North Korean ally, an approach that has never worked. The Chinese worry that any punitive cutoff of aid to North Korea might trigger its collapse, leading to a unified Korea under Seoul, with U.S. troops on their border. That prospect disturbs them far more than Kim's nuclear threats.

True, many experts believe the Chinese are now debating North Korea policy at a higher level. The head of Carnegie's Asia program, Doug Paal says it's time for Kerry, on his visit to Beijing, to start a strategic dialogue over the future of the Korean peninsula. Kerry should stress that the current situation "is not sustainable," and make the point that "the United States has no desire to put troops in the north of Korea" if the Pyongyang regime collapses.

But what if Beijing needs more prodding to see that a new approach on North Korea serves its own interests?

Here's where Chung's proposal could be so useful. Kerry should tell China its tolerance of Kim's antics threatened to unleash a wave of nuclear proliferation in East Asia? He could note that, while Chung's ideas may have limited traction now, that could quickly change.

Indeed, rather than reject Chung's ideas, Kerry should highlight them as a preview of where the region is headed if China doesn't rethink its Korea strategy.

"Chung is trying to add leverage to our side," says Paal. "It won't change the thinking in North Korea, but it might cause China to reconsider." Which is just what everyone needs.

DAYDREAMS

From Page 10

souls to outsiders? How will we feel after we become a nation of panderers and pimps? Are these the opportunities we want to create for our children—to become gamblers, pimps, and drug dealers? Is this the future of the happy smiling faces of our youth?

No, I am not a moralist, but if the CNMI is ever to become economically strong and independent, we must create our own industries with a trained labor force. If we are going to depend on outside labor, let's work alongside them. If we are going to encourage more investors, then let's invest along with them as partners.

The "fast buck activities" are based on false dreams and are built on quicksand. At the slightest disturbance they will sink. And we will be left worse off than before. Our house must be built on a solid foundation, which can only be created from good planning and hard work. If it were so easy to create a "fast buck" then why isn't everyone doing it? There are no short cuts!

Yes, let's have a casino or two. But let's balance them with other more sustainable industries. Let's try to develop some of our local products and export them. Let's teach entrepreneurial spirit so that we locals become shop owners also.

Let's cultivate our fallow land to grow food for our own consumption and even export it. There always is a market for food. Let's return to raising animals such as pigs and cattle for meat for our own consumption and for export. The other day I had some eggs that were locally hatched. What a great taste compared to imported eggs produced by caged chickens fed antibiotics. Have we forgotten how our fathers and grandfathers cultivated the soil and grazed livestock? Have we forgotten the pride they experienced in being able to feed themselves and even export the excess?

Do we become "fast buck artists" with our citizens as panderers and pimps or do we become a nation of greatness with pride and a sustained economy created with our own labor? Are there no more diamonds under our feet? Think about it! The choice is ours.

And *smile*! Everyone *smiles* in the same language! So *smile* and say hello. Have a great day!

How to get the best summer job

By EDDIE LOU
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Eddie Lou is co-founder and CEO of www.shiftgig.com. Readers may send him email at eddielou@shiftgig.com.

School is out in only a few weeks, so the time is now for those considering a summer job.

Everyone has a different reason to get a summer job. He or she might want spending money or may want to stash away some cash for the next school year. The applicant might be looking for an experience to build a skillset for the future. The summer job is a big step toward transitioning to adulthood. If any of these reasons resonate, then the student needs to get ready as many employers start recruiting well in advance of the summer.

First of all, he or she will have to decide on the type of summer job they want. Most summer jobs provide transferable skills that can come in handy down the line. Retail positions offer a great opportunity to learn universally needed sales techniques, if the applicant is sociable and able to interact with the public in a team setting.

Food-service jobs provide regular customer interaction. These jobs—servers, hosts and busboys—are often better paid than hourly workers thanks to tips. Babysitting, which requires responsibility and patience, could be another good experience. An internship in social media, marketing or finance might provide valuable business experience but often pays far less, if at all.

There are many other options as well. Whether you'd like to be a golf caddy or lifeguard at a country club, working at a sports stadium or amusement park, working outdoors on a farm or nursery or mowing lawns, or joining a hotel as a front desk clerk or housekeeper, choose quickly because hiring has already begun.

Finding the best summer job requires action. Here are a few suggestions to get the ball rolling before it's too late:

1. Look beyond the usual websites: Don't just look at a school's career site or a government job bank. There are many sites with job lists.

2. Network: Referrals and word of mouth are a great way to get a summer job. Many small businesses prefer to hire from referrals. Applicants should tell others they are looking for a job. Life is about who you know, so applicants should start with parents, parents' friends, teachers, counselors and coaches, and friends and their parents. Be professional and show enthusiasm and see if they know anyone hiring.

3. Stand Out: Six seconds. According to a 2012 study, that's how much time recruiters usually look at a resume. A stellar academic record and long list of accomplishments must all fit in those six seconds, so be sure to format a resume or online profile carefully. Find ways to stand out and show off personality and influence.

4. Clean up an online persona: An online presence speaks volumes to a potential employer. Google a name and see what comes up. Increase security settings on Facebook and Twitter profiles. Applicants should update a professional profile on LinkedIn if seeking a white-collar career, or create a work profile on Shiftgig.com if seeking shift work.

Summer can be an invaluable first work experience. Get a job that pays, but also learn a marketable skill. Get accustomed to a team environment. Improve ability to communicate with customers. The summer experience is a perfect way to demonstrate an understanding of the value of a hard-earned dollar, show ability to work as a team player, practice customer service and dealing with conflict resolution, and be responsible. These are all important experiences that employers look for when hiring.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

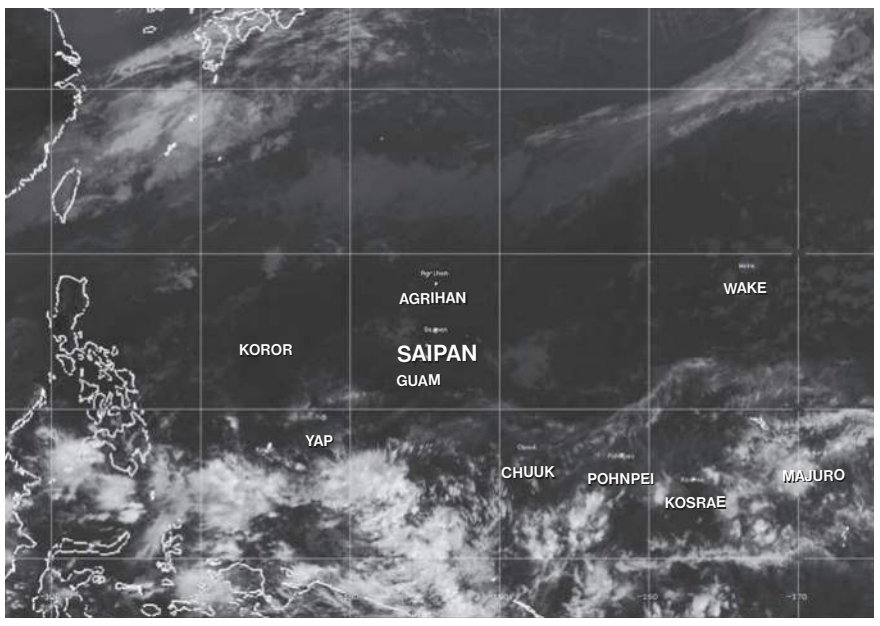
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲71	▼69
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼41
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲54	▼49
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼83
Melbourne	Sunny	▲66	▼48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼61
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼50
Pusan	Windy	▲66	▼55
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Salem	Showers	▲55	▼38
San Francisco	Windy	▲57	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼47
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼62
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N157E to northeast of Agrihan at 21N150E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are seen along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. A weak trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers east of Guam and Saipan between 11N and 15N from 150E to 154E. Trade-wind convergence south of Koror, Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei is being enhanced by upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of a line from 7N130E to 7N143E to 4N158E. Similar weather is occurring near kosrae, the central Marshall Islands and Butaritari atoll or within 250 miles of a line from 3N161E to 6N170E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:24 AM	10:34 PM
Tuesday	10:12 AM	11:21 PM
Wednesday	11:01 AM	
Thursday	11:50 AM	12:06 AM
Friday	12:40 PM	12:50 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Organizers tout success of 27th Annual Red Cross Walkathon

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter hailed the success of its 27th Annual Walkathon last Saturday morning, drawing some 3,000 walkers in support of the humanitarian organization.

Participants of all ages and other backgrounds enjoyed the great weather as they walked along the stretch of Beach Road starting from the 4-H Building in Susupe going south for 2K, 5K, and 10K distances.

Saturday's walkers received free shirts and were treated to refreshments provided by five aid stations set up throughout the trail by IP&E, Bank of Hawaii, Pacific Islands Club, and Coca-Cola. Subway and Foremost staff handed out more refreshments at the end of the line.

About 30 government agencies and private businesses set up booths to provide the public with free services, giveaways, and fun activities.

Among the time-honored activities at the annual event were the free health screenings, petting zoo, game booths, and a fire truck show. This year, spectators were treated to new attractions provided by new corporate partners such as Marpac, which brought in mascots for the children, and the Let's Move Marianas flash mob.

The annual fundraiser saw a bigger turnout this year, thanks mainly to additional participants gathered through Red Cross' involvement with the Head Start Program of the CNMI Public School System and the Child Care Program under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

More people were also able to take part because of the bus transportation offered by PSS to participants from the far-off villages of San Roque, Tanapag, and Kagman.

"We're hoping that the bigger turnout would translate to more proceeds. We've already got some evidence on that," according to walkathon committee co-chair Larry Lee, who revealed that some of the schools that regularly top the fundraising efforts raised higher amounts this year than in 2012.

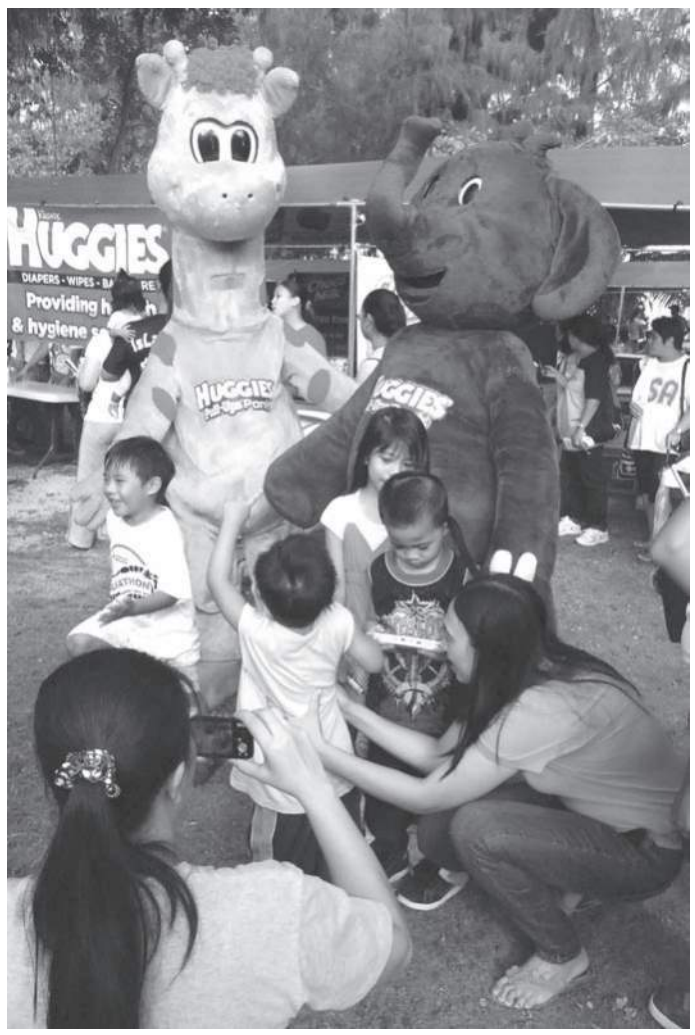
Red Cross executive director John Hirsh agree that preliminary figures are looking great, and they would know in the coming days once Bank of Guam tallies the overall amount donated by participants and corporate supporters.

Hirsh believes that the walkathon offers an opportunity for families to go out and do something fun together while supporting a good cause.

While no major calamities have struck the islands for several years, Red Cross continues to be involved in the community through its other programs such as first aid and CPR trainings, responding to single family fire incidents, emergency preparedness, and military support, said Hirsh.

"They know that we're here. Beyond that, they understand that the Red Cross is the greatest humanitarian organization in the world. They're doing great work in the U.S., throughout the Pacific, and everywhere else in the entire planet. When they see the Red Cross symbol, they know that it's a symbol they can trust and they would want to support," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Organizers thanked all walkers, volunteers, and donors and expressed hope that they had a great time during the event.



PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID

Children get their photos taken with the Huggies mascots.

Roma Amor Malasarte receives a free flu vaccine as her sister Nicole looks on.

A man gets a free Choco Milk sample from the Marpac booth.

Volunteers from the Northern Marianas College Nursing Club offer free blood pressure checkup

Two young boys smile as they hold the rabbits.

The Let's Move Marianas flash mob.

Young spectators enjoy one of the game booths at the event.

Oleai Elementary School wins Parade of Books—again

First placer and Best in School Spirit awardee Oleai Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID

Fifth placer Mount Carmel School.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

For the sixth year, Oleai Elementary School won first place in the 2013 Parade of Books of the Rotary Club of Saipan on Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The 30-member team captured the approving nods of the panel of judges and defended the title against seven other elementary schools, receiving a score of 94.6 for their interpretation of the Carolinian myth called *The Legend of Lipe'pee'lmo'ng*.

The story tells of a man who was discriminated by the people of his village for being born weaker than others. When canoes within the village began to disappear, Lipe'pee'lmo'ng led a search to find the missing men and encountered obstacles that proved the strength and magic he had within all along.

Playing the lead role was Yarawe Ythemar, who brought the character of Lipe'pee'lmo'ng to life.

Ythemar, 12, said he only memorized the script for a day and acknowledged the mentorship of his coaches and his family, which hails from Chalan Laulau.

"I feel awesome and excited that we won because I know we did a good job and we worked pretty hard for this. We really expressed our feelings out there," said Ythemar.

OES teacher Jasylene Parico revealed how their team almost didn't join the contest due to other school events. She said they only began preparations on April 1, less than two weeks before the actual competition.

"Everybody helped put it together," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Parico said they chose the Refaluwasch legend as their piece because "we were talking about which is the best book to choose and so we decided on this. It was a beautiful story when we went through it."

Parico said they also drew on the expertise of Lino Olopai, who wrote *The Legend of Lipe'pee'lmo'ng*. Olopai, in a separate interview, said the story emphasizes the importance of respect for one another regardless of what people look like.

"The basic moral of the story is to never judge people on what they look from the outside. You need to get to know that person from the inside to give you fair judgment of the person," he said.

Olopai reminded OES students a day before the competition to respect their fellow students, teachers and other school staff, parents and other family members. "Before you do anything bad, don't forget the story of Lipe'pee'lmo'ng."

OES took home the $1,000 first prize plus waterpark passes at Pacific Islands Club for winning the Best in School Spirit award.

Fourth placer San Vicente Elementary School.

Third placer Garapan Elementary School.

Second placer and Best in Director awardee Koblerville Elementary School.

Students get their photo taken with local author Lino Olopai, who wrote the winning story interpreted by Oleai Elementary School called *The Legend of Lipe'pee'lmo'ng.*

Other winners were Koblerville Elementary School which presented *The Legend of the Breadfruit Tree,* a tale about two brothers from separate villages who discovered the breadfruit tree that provided food for their people and addressed the famine that struck their islands. KES got 91 points to win the second prize of $750 and an overnight stay at PIC for bagging the Best in Director award.

In third place for 88.5 points was Garapan Elementary School, which won $500 for their performance of *The Legend of the Flame Tree*, a love story about the beautiful daughter of a chief and a warrior.

In fourth place was San Vicente Elementary School, which received 79.3 points and won $300 for their rendition of *Taga, the Boy*, a legend about the son of the strongest and biggest man in Guam.

Fifth place winner was Mount Carmel School, which won $200 for their presentation of *Banana and Coconut*, a legend about the cycle of life, death, and new life.

Other contestants that won consolation prizes were Eucon International School, which performed *Juan Malo & His Miraculous Medicine*; Kagman Elementary School, which portrayed *The Great Sea Race*; and Dandan Elementary School, which presented *Sirena*.

The competition is now on its 9th year. This year's judges were MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera, educator Jessica Barcinas Taylor, Ph.D., Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan, and CNMI Library Council chair Mark Rabauliman.

Hundreds of students, families, and other community members watched the weekend competition. Visiting members of the Kishiwada North Rotary Club in Japan also witnessed the festivities.

Pete Shilling, Saipan Rotary Club president, noted their organization's focus on literacy through programs such as Parade of Books.

"If our young people are not literate, they will not flourish as adults," he said. "They have to be literate and we support projects that will promote literacy."

Shilling said this year's theme, "Legends and Myths of Marianas and Micronesia," is also an effective means for young learners to know about the mythology of the region.

"We don't want our young people to forget our history. Every culture has its myths and legends and they are carried on by performances like this or through word of mouth. I think it's very important that we chose this year's theme to help our young people remember the old stories that our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents grew up with," said Shilling.

Business

Obama's budget plan limits his bargaining power

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's budget overtures to Republicans may limit his bargaining power if the GOP ever returns to the negotiating table on a grand deficit-reduction deal.

In essence, Obama's spending blueprint is a final offer, a no-budge budget whose central elements have failed to persuade Republicans in the past.

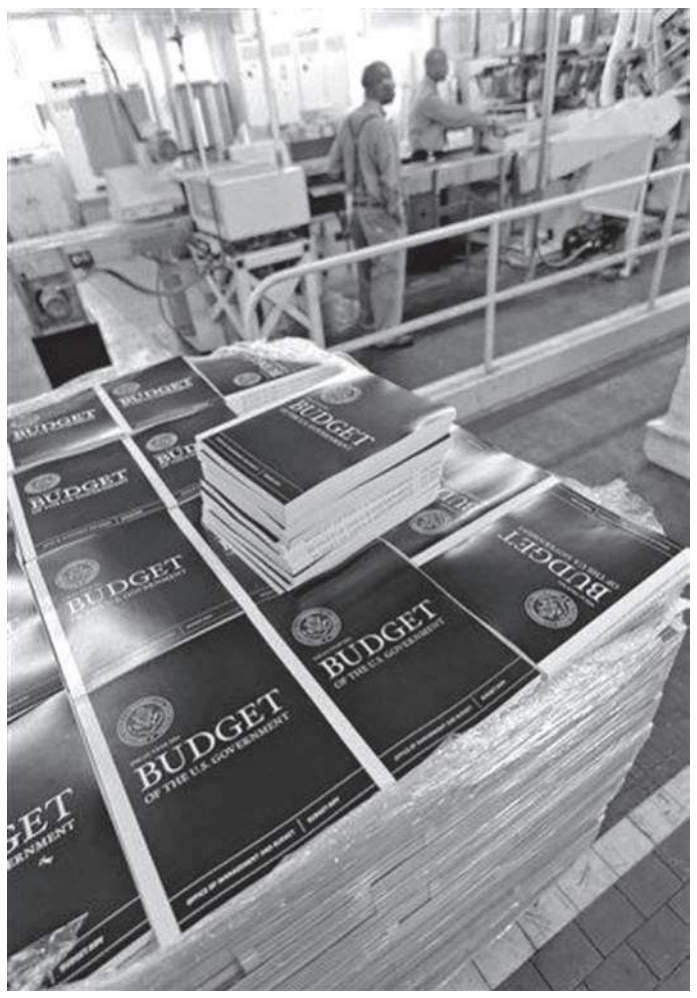
By voluntarily putting entitlement cuts on the table, particularly a proposal to slow the rise of Social Security benefits, Obama has no other gambit to win tax increases from Republicans.

With many Democrats balking at what he's already offering, it's not politically feasible for him to offer the GOP anything more.

Puzzled Democrats maintain that Obama not only has given away his leverage, he also has threatened the very identity of his party, which sees the Social Security Act of 1935 as one of its signature achievements.

"If he's trying to do it to show he is forthcoming as a negotiator, then why doesn't he wait until he gets to the negotiating table?" said Rep. Rush Holt, D-N.J. "There's a lot of talk about the fact that politically this is not a winner. Our brand is the party that brought you Social Security."

What's irked Democrats the most is Obama's decision to include a significant shift in policy in his $3.8 trillion budget that would alter the government's calculation of inflation, or the Consumer Price Index. If adopted, this new "chained CPI" would change the way the government measures inflation and would slow the rise in Social Security benefits and other programs.



AP

This April 8, 2013 file photo shows copies of President Barack Obama's budget plan for fiscal year 2014 prepared for delivery at the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington.

In exchange, Obama is insisting on $580 billion in tax increases on wealthier taxpayers. It's a demand that Republicans flatly reject.

Medicare increase could ding some in middle class

WASHINGTON (AP)—Retired city worker Sheila Pugach lives in a modest home on a quiet street in Albuquerque, N.M., and drives an 18-year-old Subaru.

Pugach doesn't see herself as upper-income by any stretch, but President Barack Obama's budget would raise her Medicare premiums and those of other comfortably retired seniors, adding to a surcharge that already costs some 2 million beneficiaries hundreds of dollars a year each.

Due to the creeping effects of inflation, 20 million Medicare beneficiaries also would end up paying higher "income related" premiums for their outpatient and prescription coverage over time.

Obama administration officials say Obama's proposal will help improve the financial stability of Medicare by reducing taxpayer subsidies for retirees who can afford to pay a bigger share of costs. Congressional Republicans agree with the president on this one, making it highly likely the idea will become law if there's a budget deal this year.

But the way Pugach sees it, she's being penalized for prudence, dinged for saving diligently.

It was the government, she says, that pushed her into a higher income bracket where she'd have to pay additional Medicare premiums.

IRS rules require people age 70-and-a-half and older to make regular minimum withdrawals from tax-deferred retirement nest eggs like 401(k)s. That was enough to nudge her over Medicare's line.

"We were good soldiers when we were young," said Pugach, who worked as a computer systems analyst. "I was afraid of not having money for retirement and I put in as much as I could. The consequence is now I have to pay about $500 a year more in Medicare premiums."

EU officials seek more private investment in jobs

DUBLIN (AP)—With many of the European Union's economies mired in stagnation, EU officials are seeking to emulate part of the U.S. model for creating growth and jobs by fostering more private investment in businesses.

Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan said Saturday that in the United States banks account for only 25 percent of external financing for businesses. In Europe, he said, the proportion is the opposite—70 to 75 percent of business financing comes from banks. He spoke at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of EU finance ministers in Dublin.

"There was a shared view that we must begin to take tangible action to assist in developing a more balanced financial system in which banks, institutional investors and public authorities all play a role in supporting long-term investment in growth and jobs," Noonan said.

This is important, he said, as many small and medium-sized businesses in the EU lack access to capital. Because Ireland currently holds the EU's rotating six-month presidency, Noonan chaired the meeting.

In January, unemployment across the 17 EU countries that use the euro hit a record 11.9 percent, with nearly 19 million people out of work. The unemployment rate for young people was 24.2 percent. And the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, predicts the unemployment rate will rise further this year.

Nation

In White House, Newtown mom pleads for gun control

WASHINGTON (AP)—The mother of a 6-year-old boy killed in the Connecticut school shooting used the opportunity to fill in for President Barack Obama during the weekly radio and Internet address to make a personal plea from the White House for action to combat gun violence.

"Thousands of other families across the United States are also drowning in our grief," said Francine Wheeler, choking back tears in the address broadcast Saturday. "Please help us do something before our tragedy becomes your tragedy."

Ben Wheeler was among the 20 first-graders and six adults killed in the Dec. 14 attack at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

Francine Wheeler was the first person to deliver the address other than Obama or Vice President Joe Biden since the two took office in 2009.

Her husband, David Wheeler, sat silently next to her as she made the recording in the White House Library. Both wore the small green pins that have become a symbol of the shooting.

Obama asked Wheeler to deliver this week's address, which was taped Friday. The White House said Wheeler and her husband wrote the remarks.

"Sometimes, I close my eyes and all I can remember is that awful day waiting at the Sandy Hook Volunteer Firehouse for the boy who would never come home—the same firehouse that was home to Ben's Tiger Scout Den 6," Francine Wheeler said. "But other times, I feel Ben's presence filling me with courage for what I have to do, for him and all the others taken from us so violently and too soon."

Some of the Sandy Hook families, with Obama's blessing, have launched a stepped-up effort to push a gun control bill through Congress.

Obama traveled Monday to Hartford, Conn., about an hour's drive from Newtown, to make his case for action. On the return trip to Washington, he brought back 12 of the victims' family members, who have been meeting with senators.

Lawyer: Girl's assault was shared in photos, texts

SARATOGA, Calif. (AP)—The parents of a 15-year-old California girl who took her own life after she was sexually abused and an explicit photo of the assault circulated among her classmates want the three boys who have been arrested in the case prosecuted as adults, a lawyer for the family says.

Pott

Authorities arrested the three 16-year-olds on suspicion of sexual battery against Audrie Pott, a Saratoga High School sophomore who hanged herself in September. The arrests this week shocked many in this prosperous Silicon Valley suburb of 30,000 as new details of the case emerged.

"We're talking about, other than murdering someone, the highest degree of a crime you could possibly do, which is to violate them in the worst of ways...and then to effectively rub her face in it afterwards," Robert Allard, the attorney representing the teenager's mother, father and stepmother, said Friday.

But lawyers for the three boys, whose names have not been released because they are minors, released a statement Friday asking the public to withhold judgment until their clients can give their side of the story, the San Jose Mercury News reported.

"Much of what has been reported over the last several days is inaccurate. Most disturbing is the attempt to link (Audrie's) suicide to the specific actions of these three boys," the statement from San Jose attorneys Eric Geffon, Alan Lagod and Benjamin Williams reads. "We are hopeful that everyone understands that these boys, none of whom have ever been in trouble with the law, are to be regarded as innocent."

Allard said the trouble started over Labor Day weekend while Audrie was on a sleepover at a friend's house where the parents were gone and the unaccompanied teens got into the liquor.

"Audrie, by all accounts, consumed some of that alcohol and eventually went upstairs to go to sleep and woke up to the worst nightmare imaginable," concluding that she had been molested, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Prisoners, guards clash over Guantanamo Bay raid

MIAMI (AP)—Months of increased tension at the Guantanamo Bay prison boiled over into a clash between guards and detainees Saturday as the military closed a communal section of the facility and moved its inmates into single cells. The violence erupted during an early morning raid that military officials said was necessary because prisoners had covered up security cameras and windows as part of a weekslong protest and hunger strike over their indefinite confinement and conditions at the U.S. base in Cuba. Prisoners fought guards with makeshift weapons that included broomsticks and mop handles when troops arrived to move them out of a communal wing of the section of the prison known as Camp 6, said Navy Capt. Robert Durand, a military spokesman. Guards responded by firing four "less-than-lethal rounds," he said.

5 killed in Idaho home fire after electrical short

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—An extension cord hooked to an electric grill on a porch shorted out and started a house fire that killed five people Saturday morning, a northern Idaho fire official says. Orofino Fire Chief Mike Lee said the house was fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived after a neighbor reported the fire at 1:38 a.m. He said smoke inhalation likely killed the two adults and three teens whose bodies were also badly burned in the blaze. He said the dead were a family of four plus a teenage friend who was sleeping over to help celebrate a birthday. He said he didn't know the genders of the teens who died.

Navy panel urges ouster of officer who faked death

GROTON, Conn. (AP)—A newly appointed nuclear attack submarine commander who went to extreme lengths to end an extramarital affair thought the issue was behind him—until the family of his ex-girlfriend got in touch with the Navy. Now the military career of Cmdr. Michael P. Ward II, who faked his death to end the eight-month affair, appears to be over. A panel of officers recommended Friday that Ward be ousted from the Navy with an honorable discharge. Ward apologized during the hearing to the Navy, his sailors and his wife in the hearing at Naval Submarine Base and said he took full responsibility for his actions, including the email he sent to his mistress posing as a fictitious co-worker named Bob and saying Ward had died unexpectedly.

Asia

Goal of nuclear-free NKorea tests US, China ties

AP

US Secretary of State John Kerry conducts a press conference answering questions from US and Chinese media, Saturday April 13, 2013, in Beijing, China.

BEIJING (AP)—Bound by threats from North Korea, the U.S. and China agreed Saturday to rid the bellicose nation of nuclear weapons in a test of whether the world powers can shelve years of rivalry and discord, and unite in fostering global stability.

Beyond this latest attempt to restrain North Korea, the burgeoning nuclear crisis has so frustrated the U.S. and China that they are forming a new and tentative bond with the potential to carry over into areas that have vexed them for decades.

But they will need to overcome the longstanding prickly relations between Beijing's communist government and Washington's free-market democracy. The two are economic competitors, and China is far more reluctant than the U.S. to intervene in international military conflicts.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Saturday described a "synergy" between the two countries to achieve worldwide security and economic stability.

"We have a stake in China's success. And frankly, China has a stake in the success of the United States," Kerry told reporters in the Chinese capital. "And that became clear in all of our conversations here today. A constructive partnership that is based on mutual interest benefits everybody in the world."

Kerry met with the new Chinese leaders to discuss a range of issues, most notably the persistent and increasingly pitched threats that North Korea has issued against the U.S., South Korea and Japan the over the past several months.

North Korea appears to be readying a missile test, in what the U.S. says would be its third since December, and there are varying opinions in Washington as to whether the North is able to develop and launch nuclear-tipped missiles.

One U.S. intelligence assessment suggested North Korea had the capacity to put a nuclear warhead on a missile, even if any such weapon would have low reliability.

Kerry and the Chinese foreign policy chief, State Councilor Yang Jiechi, said the two nations would work together to create a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, effectively forcing North Korea to give up its arsenal.

The reclusive North Korean government and its young leader, Kim Jong Un, are more likely to listen to China, its main economic and diplomatic partner and lifeline to the outside world, than anyone else.

Yang, through an interpreter, described China's stance on North Korea as "clear cut" and called for resuming the six-nation talks that fell apart four years ago and are aimed at ending the nuclear threat.

"China is firmly committed to upholding peace and stability and advancing the denuclearization process on the Korean peninsula," Yang told reporters. "We maintain that the issue should be handled and resolved peacefully through dialogue. ... To properly address the Korean nuclear issue serves the interests of all parties."

Looking for logic in North Korea's threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—To the outside world, the talk often appears to border on the lunatic, with the poor, hungry and electricity-starved nation threatening to lay waste to America's cities in an atomic firestorm, or to overrun South Korea in a lightning attack.

Enemy capitals, North Korea said, will be turned "into a sea of fire." North Korea's first strikes will be "a signal flare marking the start of a holy war." Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal is "mounted on launch pads, aimed at the windpipe of our enemies."

And it's not all talk. The profoundly isolated, totalitarian nation has launched two rockets over the past year. A February nuclear test resulted in still more U.N. sanctions. Another missile test may be in the planning stages.

But there is also a logic behind North Korea's behavior, a logic steeped in internal politics, one family's fear of losing control and the ways that a weak, poverty-wracked nation can extract concessions from some of the world's most fearsome military powers.

It's also steeped in another important fact: It works.

At various points over the past two decades, North Korea's cycles of threats and belligerence have pressured the international community into providing billions of dollars in aid and, for a time, helped push South Korea's government into improving ties.

Most importantly to Pyongyang, it has helped the Kim family remain in power decades after the fall of its patron, the Soviet Union, and long after North Korea had become an international pariah. Now the third generation of Kims, the baby-faced Kim Jong Un, is warning the world that it may soon face the wrath of Pyongyang. If the virulence of Kim Jong Un's threats have come as a surprise, he appears largely to be following in his father's diplomatic footsteps.

"You keep playing the game as long as it works," said Christopher Voss, a longtime FBI hostage negotiator and now the CEO of the Black Swan Group, a strategic advisory firm focusing on negotiation. "From their perspective, why should they evolve out of this? If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

World

Venezuela's choice: Chavez heir or fresh start

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Voters who kept Hugo Chavez in office for 14 years decide Sunday whether to elect the devoted lieutenant he chose to carry on the revolution that endeared him to the poor but that many Venezuelans believe is ruining the nation.

Nicolas Maduro sought to ride Chavez's endorsement to victory with a campaign nearly bereft of promises but freighted with personal attacks that was otherwise little more than an unflagging tribute to the polarizing leader who died of cancer March 5.

The 50-year-old longtime Chavez foreign minister pinned his hopes on the immense loyalty for his boss among millions of poor beneficiaries of a socialist government's largesse and the heft of a state apparatus that Chavez skillfully consolidated.

The governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela deployed a well-worn, get-out-the-vote machine spearheaded by loyal state employees. It also enjoyed a pervasive state media apparatus as part of a near monopoly on institutional power.

Challenger Henrique Capriles' aides accused Chavista loyalists in the judiciary of putting them at glaring disadvantage. Prosecutors and state regulators impoverished the campaign and opposition broadcast media by targeting them with unwarranted fines and prosecutions, they said

Capriles' main campaign weapon was thus jujutsu: To simply point out "the incompetence of the state," as he put it to reporters in a news conference Saturday night.

Maduro was still favored, but his early big lead in opinion polls halved over the past two weeks in a country struggling with the legacy of Chavez's management of the world's largest oil reserves. Many Venezuelans believe his confederates not only squandered but plundered much of the $1 trillion in oil revenues during his time in office.

People are fed up with chronic power outages, crumbling infrastructure, unfinished public works projects, double-digit inflation, food and medicine shortages and rampant crime that has given Venezuela among the world's highest homicide and kidnapping rates.

Capriles is a 40-year-old state governor who lost to Chavez in October's presidential election by a nearly 11-point margin, the best showing ever by a challenger to the longtime president. He showed for Maduro none of the respect he accorded Chavez. Maduro hit back hard, at one point calling Capriles' backers "heirs of Hitler." It was an odd accusation considering that Capriles is the grandson of Holcaust survivors from Poland.

"Capriles ran a remarkable campaign that shows he has creativity, tenacity and disposition to play political hardball," said David Smilde, an analyst with the Washington Office on Latin America think tank.

At his campaign rallies, Capriles would read out a list of unfinished road, bridge and rail projects. Then he asked people what goods were scarce on store shelves. The opposition contends Chavez emptied the treasury last year to buy re-election with government largesse.

Maduro, a former union activist and bus driver with close ties to Cuba's leaders, constantly alleged that Capriles was conspiring with U.S. putschists to destabilize Venezuela and even suggested Washington had somehow infected Chavez with the cancer that killed him.

Palestinian PM Fayyad resigns

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Palestinian Prime Minister Salaam Fayyad resigned on Saturday, leaving the Palestinians without one of their most moderate and well-respected voices just as the U.S. is launching a new push for Mideast peace.

A statement from the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said President Mahmoud Abbas met with Fayyad late in the day and accepted his resignation, thanking him for his service. According to the statement, Abbas asked Fayyad to continue to serve in his post until Abbas forms a new government.

Abbas was expected to name a new prime minister within days, according to Palestinian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Abbas and Fayyad had been locked in an increasingly bitter dispute over the extent of the prime minister's authority. Fayyad offered his resignation on Thursday, but Abbas did not respond to Fayyad's offer until Saturday.

His departure could spell trouble for Abbas. Fayyad, a Western-trained economist, is well respected in international circles, and he is expected to play a key role in U.S. efforts to revive peace talks.

As part of that effort, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has said he plans to announce a series of measures to boost the West Bank economy in the coming days. Fayyad, a former official at the International Monetary Fund with expertise in development, would be key to overseeing such projects.

Fayyad has served since mid-2007 as prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, the self-rule government that administers roughly 40 percent of the Israeli-controlled West Bank. The 61-year-old political independent has focused his efforts on developing the foundations of an independent Palestinian state.

A squeaky-clean public image and willingness to take on entrenched interests has often landed him in trouble with Abbas' long-ruling Fatah movement.

The relationship between Fayyad and Abbas has been tense for some time, and the prime minister told Abbas already late last year that he wanted to quit.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia bans 18 Americans after similar US move

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia on Saturday banned 18 Americans from entering the country in response to Washington imposing sanctions on 18 Russians for alleged human rights violations. The list released by the Foreign Ministry includes John Yoo, a former U.S. Justice Department official who wrote legal memos authorizing harsh interrogation techniques; David Addington, the chief of staff for former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney; and two former commanders of the Guantanamo Bay detention center: retired Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller and Adm. Jeffrey Harbeson.

Mubarak appears in Egyptian court for retrial

CAIRO (AP)—The judge in Hosni Mubarak's retrial recused himself at the start of the first session on Saturday, citing a conflict of interest as the former Egyptian president appeared in court for the first time in 10 months grinning and waving to supporters. The recusal threw the case deeper into disarray after an appeals court in January overturned a life sentence for Mubarak on a conviction for failing to prevent the killings of protesters during the 2011 uprising that ousted him.

Anti-Thatcher party in London's Trafalgar Square

LONDON (AP)—Hundreds of opponents of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher partied in London's Trafalgar Square to celebrate her death, sipping Champagne and chanting "Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead." Thatcher's most strident critics had long vowed to hold a gathering in central London on the Saturday following her passing, and the festivities were an indication of the depth of the hatred which some Britons still feel for their former leader.

Focus

Chinese tourism: The good, the bad and the backlash

By KARLA CRIPPS
CNN

It might be the biggest phenomenon to hit the global travel industry since the invention of commercial flight—Chinese tourism.

The figures are incredible.

By 2015, 100 million Chinese will pack their bags to travel abroad, according to a report from the UN World Tourism Organization.

In 2012, Chinese overtook Americans and Germans as the world's top international tourism spenders, with 83 million people spending a record US$102 billion on international tourism.

Pretty much any country with "Approved Destination Status"—a bilateral tourism arrangement with China—has remarkable numbers to throw out on Chinese tourism growth, from the United States to France.

The figures are even more dramatic closer to home. South Korea recently reported that in February, for the first time ever, Chinese tourists overtook Japanese tourists in terms of arrival numbers.

Hong Kong and Thailand cite similar growth.

AP

Chinese tourists take pictures at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom, dividing the two Koreas since the Korean War, in Paju, north of Seoul, South Korea, Friday, April 5, 2013.

Great, they're coming! (Now what do we do?)

In response to the boom, global travel operators have been frantically adapting their offerings—hotels in particular.

Mei Zhang, founder and CEO of Beijing-based travel company WildChina, deals with both inbound and outbound tourists. She says though there are still teething problems, the world's luxury travel industry is taking positive steps toward making Chinese tourists feel at home.

"The Ritz Paris (currently under renovation) has a Chinese concierge," says Zhang. "Shangri-La and the Peninsula—both considered by Chinese to be somewhat Asian brands—have restaurants serving Chinese breakfast. They've adjusted their menus.

"In New York, at the Waldorf Astoria, if they know it's a Chinese person arriving they'll give them a tea kettle and a pair of slippers.

"The luxury stores in Paris have equipped themselves with Chinese-speaking staff. Similarly in Asia-Pacific, I was recently at the Four Seasons in Indonesia and they have Chinese menus, guides and guest ambassadors."

It's still not enough, says Dr. Wolfgang Georg Arlt, director of the privately run China Outbound Tourism Research Institute, which has offices in Beijing and Heide, Germany.

He says the global travel industry needs to stop relying on old stereotypes about the Chinese and actually listen to what they want.

"If you look at surveys and forums in China, the majority of Chinese people are not satisfied with the service they get when they travel—especially outside East and Southeast Asia, in areas where there are not as many Chinese, like in Europe or North America," he says.

The solution: Social media

The problem, he says, is that even when management understands that Chinese outbound tourism is the largest and potentially most important market in the world, this awareness isn't manifesting itself on the front line with service staff who are actually in touch with customers.

"Chinese tourists often say they feel treated like second class people, even when they spend a lot of money," says Arlt.

"When I go to a hotel and have to wait five minutes before I get my key, I never think, 'Oh, they're doing this to me because I'm German.' I think, 'Maybe they need more staff.'

"But Chinese view it as, 'Aha! I knew it, they're making me wait because I'm Chinese and they think they don't need to treat me the same way as the Westerners.'"

This means service providers face the challenge of making Chinese guests feel welcome and comfortable, he says.

Simply adding congee to the breakfast table isn't going to cut it.

The solution, he says, lies in social media.

"There are millions of Chinese everyday writing about their travel experiences and things they don't like," says Arlt.

"They're keen on discussing and sharing their experiences online. It's all there. You just need to have someone Chinese do the data mining."

'New Chinese tourist'

The industry is adapting, acknowledges Arlt, but many big players have yet to recognize that the demographics are quickly shifting.

"The problem is the international tourism industry is slowly catching up with the idea that the Chinese traveler is coming, but in fact the Chinese traveler is already here and they're segmenting," says Arlt.

"You have two kinds of tourists. Package tourists, who are usually first time travelers. They do the eight European countries in 10 days, ticking off the sites. For them the most important thing is to get that shot in front of the Eiffel Tower."

This type of tourist appreciates the congee and hot water kettle, he says.

"But you have a growing number of what we call the 'new Chinese tourist.' People who are better educated, with more travel experience—most have been students abroad so they know their way around. Self-organized."

It's these tourists who are looking to try the local cuisine and want new experiences, he says, and resent being stereotyped as an ignorant traveler from the countryside who can't live without his instant noodles.

"I think we're maturing in all kinds of areas very fast, be it taste of destination or taste of foreign cuisine," agrees WildChina's Zhang.

"But the majority of [Chinese] tourists still need to develop. One problem area is advance planning. We have few clients who plan six months ahead. So they end up giving last-minute requests for Michelin-starred dinners and they just can't get in.

"Then they become unhappy because they think money can get anything. The game in the international market is slightly different. So advance planning is something they're learning."

Tourists behaving badly

No discussion of Chinese tourism would be complete without addressing the backlash now making the rounds in some sectors of the travel industry.

To put this into context, Zhang describes a popular urban legend about a wealthy Chinese tourist who entered a famous luxury boutique in Milan with a lit cigarette.

When asked to put out the cigarette, the woman replied that she'd buy 20 purses if she was allowed to smoke in the shop.

Next thing you know, the woman is handed an ashtray, and the boutique did indeed earn a nice profit that day.

Zhang says allowing that behavior is a double-edged sword.

"Rich Chinese tourists are pushing the boundaries and unfortunately some of these places are bending to their will," she says.

"Particularly the newly rich, who think, 'If I'm paying money then I'm God.'"

Arlt says Chinese are often proud of the fact that they're at the top of the wealth chain, given that the Cultural Revolution is still fresh in the minds of people over 40.

"This has happened all in one generation," he says. "Many [Chinese tourists] have parents who didn't have shoes. All this growth happened so fast it's still in living memory.

"Now they're showing the world and themselves: 'I'm strong, I can go spend US$5,000 for nothing, just for my pleasure.'"

And they're more than happy to rub it in the West's face, he adds.

"The Chinese have the idea that since the Opium Wars they've been oppressed and looked down on, so now they're coming back rich," Arlt says.

"This is the fun for them. You toss some coins and Western people dance for you."

Anti-tourist sentiment

The scene is even more charged with emotion in Hong Kong, where mainland Chinese tourists face harsh resentment for a number of issues. Clashes between locals and tourists on public transportation and in restaurants have been caught on video, rapidly gone viral on the Internet and are regular

press fodder.

Hong Kong Airlines has even taught its cabin crew kung fu to deal with drunken passengers flying to and from the mainland in light of what it says are continuous issues.

Dr. Yong Chen of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, who specializes in Chinese outbound tourism, says all the bad press needs to be taken in context, given how many mainlanders are heading south of the border.

"There were 48 million tourists who came to Hong Kong last year and more than 70 percent of them were Chinese tourists," he says. "There's no other country with such a high market share in the world."

When posted on the Internet, small, individual problems, like shouting matches on subway trains, have a way of transcending borders.

"Travel is a way of communication between cultures," he says. "Tourism will help people to get better and learn. It's a new experience for them."

Liu Zhen-xiu, a mother from Tianjin visiting Hong Kong with her young daughter, says she notices the resentment.

"We usually stay in five-star hotels, so people in the service industry of course have to be polite and friendly to us," she says.

"I haven't gotten into a situation where I was treated differently or rudely, but I can feel that local people do not welcome mainland tourists."

Learning global cultures

Fauna (who didn't want her last name published) is the founder of popular

English-language blog ChinaSMACK, which analyzes and translates online reaction to popular news stories in China.

Responses to stories of Chinese behaving badly while traveling are mixed among China's online community, she says.

"If the focus is on the behavior of the mainland tourist, usually the reaction from mainland Chinese netizens is embarrassment," she says.

"If the focus is on criticisms of mainland Chinese by Hong Kong people or foreigners, then often there is defensiveness—but also a lot of

embarrassment—and counter-criticism."

Zhang has a similar view, noting that the younger generation and wealthier Chinese are usually unhappy with those who damage the image of Chinese travelers worldwide.

"On the other hand, there is this strong sense of patriotism and a bit of insecurity about our national identity," she says.

"If a non-Chinese points fingers at this kind of behavior, almost all Chinese feel very defensive. They will say, 'That's racist against Chinese.'

"There's the idea that, 'It's my dirty laundry, I know it's smelly and it's OK for me to criticize it, but it's not OK for you to say anything.'"

Zhang says it will take time for attitudes to change, as more Chinese grow accustomed to global cultures.

Naicy Zhang, a Chinese tourist visiting Hong Kong from Dongguan, agrees.

"People are generally helpful, but I know there are differences in cultures between Chinese tourists and others," she says.

"The people here in Hong Kong, for example, are more polite and self-disciplined, they queue up for everything. But in China, no one will ever queue up and they will fight for things. If you wait, you will be left with nothing.

"It's true that Chinese tourists may not understand the local rules and customs in the beginning and make mistakes. But we will learn."

Arlt says too many locals are seeing only the negative side of Chinese tourism.

"The busloads of Chinese people running around and taking a lot of photos and making noise and behaving a bit stupid because this is the first time they're traveling—these are the more visible tourists," says Arlt.

"The people who have been traveling 10 to 15 years or studied abroad and speak perfect English—they blend in, so we don't even identify them as Chinese. For the tourism industry, these are the interesting customers."

CNN's Hiufu Wong contributed to this report

Health & Fitness

Suicide survivors help to shape prevention efforts

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—They look intently at the camera, some impassively, some with smiles, all of them aware that they've just shared with an online audience a most personal story: Why they tried to kill themselves.

By the dozens, survivors of attempted suicide across the United States are volunteering to be part of a project by a Brooklyn-based photographer, Dese'Rae Stage, called "Live Through This"—a collection of photographic portraits and personal accounts.

It's one of several new initiatives transforming the nation's suicide-prevention community as more survivors find the courage to speak out and more experts make efforts to learn from them. There's a new survivors task force, an array of blogs, some riveting YouTube clips, all with the common goal of stripping away anonymity, stigma and shame.

"Everyone feels like they have to walk on egg shells," says Stage, who once tried to kill herself with self-inflicted cuts. "We're not that fragile. We have to figure out how to talk about it, rather than avoiding it."

Such conversations are proliferating.

In January, the American Association of Suicidology launched a website called "What Happens Now?"—described as the first sustained effort by a national prevention organization to engage survivors in a public forum. It features a blog, updated weekly, with contributions from survivors sharing their experiences and often using their real names.

In one of the latest posts, the founder of a respite home for suicidal people writes powerfully about her own suicide attempt eight years ago, involving both pills and a kitchen knife, and about the contributions that survivors can bring to prevention efforts.

AP

This 2012 photo provided by Dese'Rae L. Stage shows Caitlin Coleman. Coleman tried to kill herself with an overdose of pills while battling depression as a college sophomore in Columbus, Ohio. "I didn't have a lot of friends, and felt increasingly isolated," she recalled. "It got to the point where it was a good day if I could get out of bed and go to Starbucks." The suicide attempt left her hospitalized in a coma, and during a lengthy recovery she became frustrated at the lack of resources that included input from other survivors.

"Survivors have a unique perspective on what life's like down in the deep, dark hole," writes Sabrina Strong, executive director of Waking Up Alive in Albuquerque, N.M. "We found our way out... We're not afraid to crawl down in the dark hole with someone else."

Seeking to encourage those types of contributions, the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention—a federally funded public-private partnership—has formed a first-of-its-kind task force comprised of prevention experts and survivors. It plans to issue recommendations this fall for how practitioners and organizations in the prevention field can "engage and empower suicide attempt survivors."

One of the task force co-chairs is psychologist John Draper, project director of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a network of centers that field calls from emotionally distressed and potentially suicidal people.

According to studies cited by Draper, about 7 percent of survivors later kill themselves, a far higher rate than for other groups.

"Yet that means 93 percent go on to live out their lives," he said. "We've got to talk to them, engage then, find out what is bringing them hope and keeping them alive."

The other co-chair is Eduardo Vega, the survivor of a suicide attempt who is now executive director of the Mental Health Association of San Francisco.

"Nobody can speak to the issues, the sort of agony, even the decision-making that goes on when you're actively suicidal so much as somebody who's been there, and can relate to all that's going on in a nonjudgmental way," Vega says in a recent video. "That's the sort of magic that will make a difference."

In past decades, the stigma surrounding suicide was intense, and most people who tried to kill themselves avoided any public disclosures about their experiences. There was far more involvement in the prevention movement by bereaved relatives of people who completed a suicide.

Among them was Michelle Linn-Gust, whose sister killed herself at 17 and who, in her current role as president of the American Association of Suicidology, helped launch the "What Happens Now?" website.

"The bereaved, the people who've lost someone, like me, that movement has taken off," Linn-Gust said. "But the attempt survivors have not had a voice. Nobody has given them a home."

Over the years, individuals who had attempted suicide would surface occasionally, writing books or going on the public-speaking circuit to share their experiences. One such communicator is Kevin Hines, who became a prolific writer and speaker after surviving a jump from the Golden Gate Bridge in 2000. A survivor in Canada, David Granirer, has carved out a specialty as a stand-up comedian whose monologues address depression and mental illness.

Among Granirer's routines is a feigned phone conversation in which he unsettles a smarmy telemarketer. "I'm so depressed," he says. "If you hang up, I'll kill myself."

What's new in the past couple of years is a broader phenomenon—a surge of collective projects by survivors, corresponding with a keener and more systematic interest by prevention experts in their potential contributions.

"The voices of people who have thought about suicide and possibly attempted suicide have been largely absent from public conversations about suicide and what should be done about it," says Karen Butler Easter, president of National Association of Crisis Center Directors. "They know what hurts, and they know what helps."

One asset that survivors say they can supply is candor.

"We are willing to speak truthfully, even if others are afraid to," writes Sabrina Strong in her recent blog post. "We understand that we do others a disservice by providing generic and whitewashed advice from the school of magical thinking—`Things will get better.' `Everything's all right.'

"Sometimes things don't get better, at least not right away."

Historically, prevention specialists made relatively little effort to seek input from people who tried to kill themselves. Experts say treatment often was—and in some cases still is—condescending, and at times harsh and punitive.

"The attitude was that if a person tried to kill themselves, they were irresponsible, they were not people we could trust, and we knew what's better for them," said John Draper. "There also was some concern that they might kill themselves if we engaged them."

Those attitudes have evolved in recent years, with more interest in collaborative treatment. Yet prevention experts say many therapists lack specialized training in how to deal with survivors and balk at treating them because their above-average rate of eventually killing themselves prompts fear of malpractice suits by their families.

Among those serving with Draper and Vega on the new task force is Heidi Bryan of Neenah, Wis., who survived a suicide attempt in the 1980s and whose brother did kill himself.

ON THE NET

- American Association of Suicidology's "What Happens Now?" blog: http://attemptsurvivors.com/
- Guidelines for suicide attempt survivors who want to share their story: http://bit.ly/10Bv8Db
- Live Through This: http://livethroughthis.org/

China WHO chief: Beijing H7N9 case not surprising

BEIJING (AP)—A World Health Organization official said Sunday that it wasn't surprising that a new strain of bird flu has spread to China's capital after sickening dozens in the eastern part of the country.

Up until Saturday when Beijing officials reported the capital's first case of H7N9, all cases had been in Shanghai and other eastern China areas. On Sunday, the first two cases were reported in central Henan province, which is next to Beijing.

It's not the case that everyone confirmed infected with H7N9 was "clustered in one small area with the same source of exposure," said Michael O'Leary, head of WHO's office in China. "So we've been expecting new cases to occur ... Furthermore, we still expect that there will be other cases."

A 7-year-old girl was Beijing's first confirmed case of H7N9, which has now sickened 51 people, of whom 11 died.

Health officials believe the virus that was first spotted in humans last month is spreading through direct contact with infected fowl.

O'Leary said "the good news" was that there was still no evidence that humans had passed on the virus to other humans.

"As far as we know, all the cases are individually infected in a sporadic and not connected way," he said, adding that the source of infection is still being investigated.

The girl, whose parents are in the live poultry trade, was admitted to a hospital Thursday with symptoms of fever, sore throat, coughing and headache, the Beijing Health Bureau said.

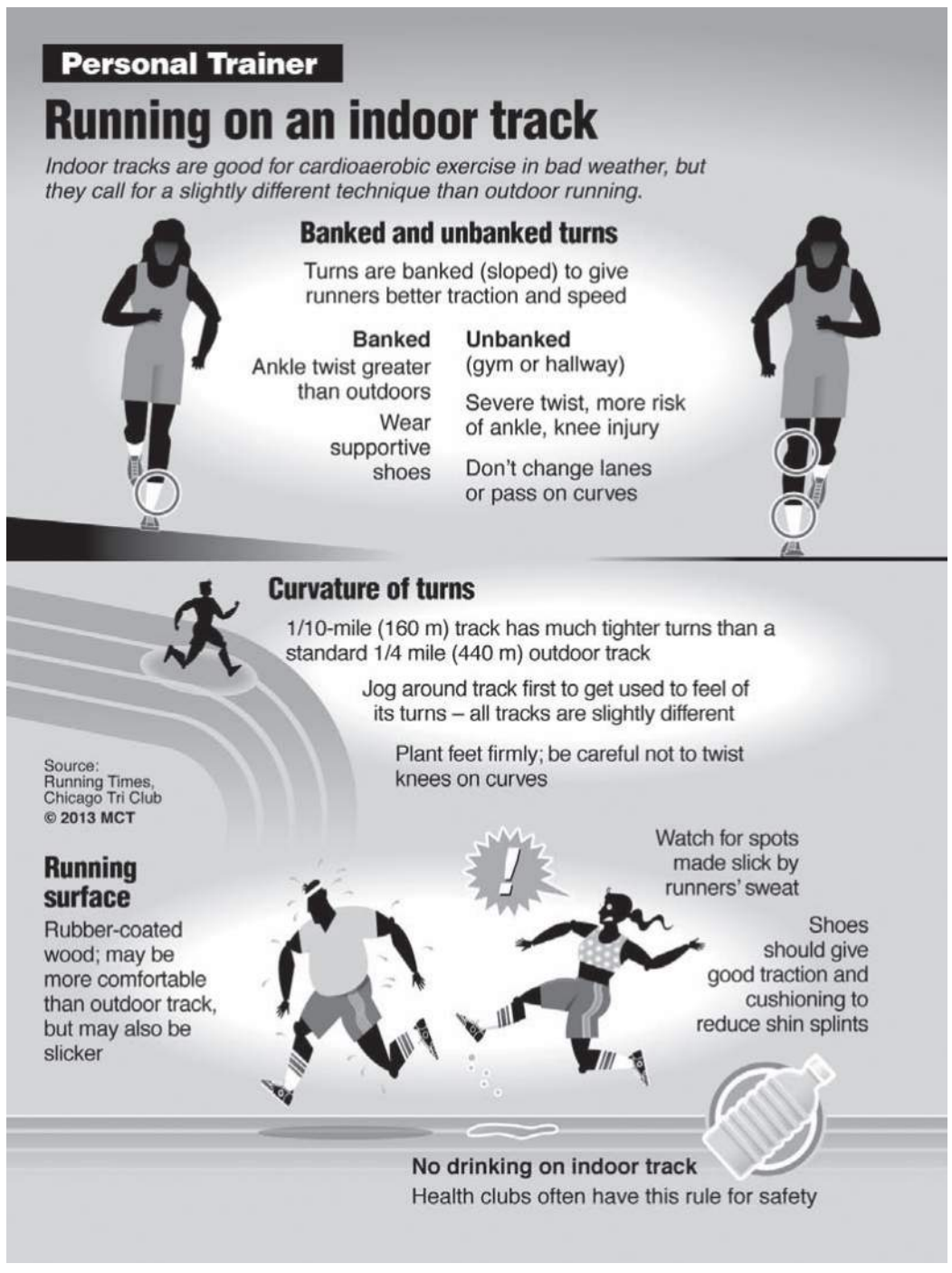
O'Leary said early treatment can be effective, as demonstrated by the girl who was recovering in hospital and in stable condition.

In the only other reported cases outside of eastern China, health officials in Henan province announced that tests on two men Thursday revealed they had the virus.

They said a 34-year-old restaurant chef who had displayed flu symptoms for about a week was in critical condition in hospital, while a 65-year-old farmer who was in frequent contact with poultry was in stable condition after receiving treatment.

They said 19 people who had been in close contact with the two men had not shown any flu symptoms.

China has been more open in its response to the new virus than it was a decade ago with an outbreak of SARS, when authorities were highly criticized for not releasing information.


Personal Trainer
Running on an indoor track
Indoor tracks are good for cardioaerobic exercise in bad weather, but they call for a slightly different technique than outdoor running.
Banked and unbanked turns
Turns are banked (sloped) to give runners better traction and speed
Banked
Ankle twist greater than outdoors
Wear supportive shoes
Unbanked
(gym or hallway)
Severe twist, more risk of ankle, knee injury
Don't change lanes or pass on curves
Curvature of turns
1/10-mile (160 m) track has much tighter turns than a standard 1/4 mile (440 m) outdoor track
Jog around track first to get used to feel of its turns – all tracks are slightly different
Plant feet firmly; be careful not to twist knees on curves
Source: Running Times, Chicago Tri Club
© 2013 MCT
Running surface
Rubber-coated wood; may be more comfortable than outdoor track, but may also be slicker
Watch for spots made slick by runners' sweat
Shoes should give good traction and cushioning to reduce shin splints
No drinking on indoor track
Health clubs often have this rule for safety

Life & Style

PSY says he hopes NKoreans enjoy his new single

South Korean rapper PSY performs at his concert "Happening" in Seoul, South Korea Saturday, April 13, 2013. AP

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean rapper PSY says he hopes North Koreans will enjoy his new single even as tensions remain high on the Korean Peninsula.

PSY released his latest single, "Gentleman," in 119 countries on Friday, hoping to replicate the success of "Gangnam Style," the smash YouTube hit that made him an international star almost overnight last year. The choreography for "Gentleman"—including the "arrogant dance," as PSY called it—was unveiled at a concert in Seoul on Saturday before more than 50,000 fans. The music video has been uploaded onto YouTube.

PSY, whose real name is Park Jae-sang, said Saturday that he regretted the current tensions between the two Koreas. The situation has been grabbing global headlines, with North Korea becoming increasingly belligerent with war rumblings, leaving its neighbors wary of a possible missile test by Pyongyang.

"It's a tragedy. We are the only countries divided right now," PSY said at a news conference ahead of the concert.

North and South Korea, which are divided by heavily fortified borders, are technically still at war, with the 1950-53 Korean War ending with a cease-fire, not a peace treaty.

PSY said he hoped North Koreans would enjoy his new music. He said his job was to make all people, including North Koreans, laugh.

"Hopefully my `Gangnam Style,' my `Gentleman,' my music videos and my choreography ... they might enjoy them too," he said.

When the "Gangnam Style" video went viral last year, it spun legions of parodies. Even North Korea's government created a parody video of the hit, showing that the secretive country is well-versed in South Korean popular culture. North Korea used its "Gangnam Style" parody to criticize Park Geun-hye, then the presidential candidate for South Korea's ruling party. Park was inaugurated as South Korea's new president in February.

PSY's "Gangnam Style" video, featuring his much-mimicked horse-riding dance, made him one of the best-known Koreans in the world. It's the most watched video of all time on YouTube, gathering more than 1.5 billion views since its release in July.

PSY acknowledged that the massive success of "Gangnam Style" added to the pressure as he worked on his latest single, but he said he tried to remain true to himself and his Korean roots.

"I tried to find Korean words that people from any country can easily sing along," he said of "Gentleman," which contains lyrics both in English and Korean. PSY co-composed the music and wrote the lyrics, which poke fun at a self-claimed gentleman who enjoys his time at a dance club.

Audiences have questioned whether PSY will be a one-hit wonder known only for "Gangnam Style." But the South Korean musician, whose humble personality has endeared him to his fans at home since he made his debut more than a decade ago, shrugs off the skepticism.

"Whether or not a couple of my songs become a global hit, I've been doing this job for 12 years," PSY said. "I will bring more Korean dance moves and Korean songs overseas."

Richards joins Clapton at Crossroads Festival

NEW YORK (AP)—Eric Clapton's Crossroads festival has become the mecca for riff worshippers, so it was appropriate that guitar deity Keith Richards made a surprise appearance to perform with Clapton.

The Rolling Stone received perhaps the most sustained standing ovation of the night as he joined his old pal toward the end of Crossroads, a two-night concert festival at Madison Square Garden that brought together a dazzling array of guitar masters, from John Mayer to Jeff Beck to legends like Buddy Guy, and of course, Clapton and Richards.

Richards—whose Stones announced another tour earlier this month—flashed his typical wry smile to the crowd before joining Clapton in playing the blues standard and Clapton favorite "Key to the Highway. "

"Now we're gonna rock it up," Richards said before launching into "Sweet Little Rock N' Roller."

Richards' appearance was only the beginning of Clapton's hour-plus long set, which included hits like "Crossroads" and "Little Queen of Spades." It also featured other special guests, like Robbie Robertson, who sang the classic "I Shall Be Released."

"I just want to say it's an honor to be here in honor of Crossroads and Eric Clapton," said Robertson.

Crossroads Guitar Festival, which benefits Clapton's Crossroads Centre for substance abuse in Antigua, has been held every three years since 2004; this Friday and Saturday was its first at Madison Square Garden.

The show lasted almost five hours, with each performer showcasing his own particular brand of wizardry on the instrument (all the headliners were men, though there were a few women as supporting players in the program).

Clapton joined Los Lobos and Robert Cray early on and Warren Haynes and Derek Trucks played an acoustic set and brought out Gregg Allman. Keb' Mo' and Taj Mahal paid tribute to the blues in their acoustic set, while newcomer Gary Clark Jr. had the crowd on its feet throughout most of his electrifying set, which was followed by another fiery set, this one by Jeff Beck.

Other highlights a performance by blues great Buddy Guy an a set from Vince Gill, Keith Urban and Albert Lee.

"It's one of the greatest things that ever happened, getting this invitation from Eric Clapton," Gill gushed onstage.

The night ended with just about all of the evening's performers coming back on stage for a jam session with Clapton.

"See you in three years," Clapton told the crowd before exiting the stage.

In Loving Memory

Jose Santos Pinaula

Better known as "**Jose Kusuneru**" or "**Tan Ping**"
Born on June 22, 1934 and was called to eternal rest on April 11, 2013

In his new life, he now joins his:
Wife: †Juana Camacho Pinaula
Daughters: †Alfonsina Camacho Pinaula
†Gertudes Camacho Pinaula
Father: †Vicente I. Pinaula
Mother: †Consolacion Santos Pinaula
Brothers: †Juan S. Pinaula, †Mariano S. Pinaula, †Leon S. Pinaula
Sisters: †Dolores P. Castro, †Thomasa P. Rios, †Ana P. Acosta
Father-in-law: †Jesus Castro Camacho
Mother-in-law: †Rita Sablan Camacho
Brother-in-law: †Ignacio S. Camacho
Sisters-in-law:
† Anunciacion S. Palacios/Jesus M. Palacios
† Antonina C. Tenorio/Miguel P. Tenorio
† Theodora S. Camacho

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren: Remedio and Avelino Yumul (Emerson P. Yumul; Eleanor and Derrick Ellis [Joshua, Koby, Kaeden, Kysen]; Ezra and Andy Hensing [Brandon]; Berto P. Yumul [Joban and Jailyn]; Eugene P. Yumul and Keesha Castillo [Noah])
Edward C. Pinaula and Angelita B. Mendiola (Angela Edlyn M. Pinaula and William B. Camacho, Jr.; Edward Jacinto M. Pinaula)
Jesusa and Jose DLG Crisostomo (Lina P. Crisostomo [Arleena]; Gerry and Brianna Crisostomo [Sedric, Anika, and Gianna]; Tricia P. Crisostomo; Corey and Angela Crisostomo
Diego and Francesca Pinaula (April and Kimo Taitano [Kimo Jr, Kianndra]; Antonetta and Robert Mosquite [Shelby, Alexis, Frances]; Jose T. Pinaula and Carlene Songsong [Clayton and Brandon]; Diego Pinaula, Jr.
Reared Children: Melvia Robinson and family, Jonathan Ada and family
Godchildren: Rosalinda Jones Ayuyu and family, Miguel Lieto and family
Sisters: Maria P. Cadang and family, Marcelina P. San Nicolas and family
Sisters-in-law: Thomasa C. Naraja and family, Ana C. Toy and family, Antonia C. Sakisat and family

Daily mass is offered at 6:00pm at San Roque Parish on April 14, 16, and 18 (April 14, 2013 at 9:30am at San Roque Parish); and Santa Remedios Parish on April 12, 13, 15, and 17. Nightly rosary will be followed right after mass at 7:00pm at the San Roque Parish.

Funeral mass will be held on Friday, April 19, 2013 at 10:00am at San Roque Parish.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow, and Thank You

The Family

Boy triplets a sensation at top Cuba ballet school

HAVANA (AP)—Visitors to the elite feeder school for Cuba's renowned National Ballet might be forgiven for thinking they're suddenly seeing triple.

Identical triplets Angel, Cesar and Marcos Ramirez wear matching black leotards and white socks as they leap, prance and twirl across the linoleum floor of the mirrored studio. They share the same wiry build, olive complexion, mussed hairstyles and coffee-colored eyes. And they speak the same fast-paced Spanish in the high-pitched voice of children.

Even their instructors have trouble telling the Ramirez boys apart, but they say the 13-year-olds have already separated themselves from their peers technically and artistically, and all three have the talent to make a big splash in the ballet world when they grow up.

If they succeed, they will join a long line of celebrated dancers trained in Cuba, where fans from every social stratum follow the careers of ballet stars like Carlos Acosta and Rolando Sarabia as closely as those of baseball players or boxers.

"I want to be a dancer. The National Ballet of Cuba turns out great male dancers," said Marcos, sweat dripping from his face after a recent workout in the steamy studio as his brothers nodded in agreement. "And go on tour in many countries and travel the world by dancing."

Toward that end, the Ramirez brothers spend 12 hours a day at the National School of Ballet, housed in a graceful, cream-porticoed building that occupies a full half-block in colonial Old Havana. Classes include not only dance, but more mundane subjects like language, math and history.

A former social club with broad hallways and a majestic marble staircase, this is where the creme de la creme of young dancers from across the country train for a shot at stardom.

AP

In this April 3, 2013 photo, identical triplets Marcos, Cesar and Angel Ramirez Castellanos stand at the bar at the start of ballet class at the National School of Ballet in Havana, Cuba.

The school was founded seven decades ago by famed prima ballerina assoluta Alicia Alonso, now age 92, who is probably the most recognized person in Cuba not named "Castro."

"This school means a lot to us," Angel said. "It gives us the training to graduate as ballet dancers, which is the thing we want most."

While the odds are tough, Mirlen Rodriguez, a 24-year-old teacher and former student at the school, says the brothers all have a chance of making their careers onstage.

"They are at a level that is beyond high," Rodriguez said.

The three have already beaten long odds simply by being born.

According to 2010 data compiled by the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, only 0.14 percent of births that year were triplets or higher-order multiple births.

Naturally born identical triplets, involving a single egg separating into three fetuses rather than multiple eggs being fertilized, are much rarer.

Mothers of Supertwins, a U.S. nonprofit group that provides support, education and research on higher-order multiple births, says about one of every 62,500 pregnancies results in identical triplets—or 0.0016 percent.

The Ramirezes, born into a family that lives in the gritty neighborhood of Center Havana, say they are extremely close.

In conversation they often finish each other's thoughts. They also seem to have fun with their uniqueness, introducing themselves to a reporter as if their relationship wasn't apparent.

"My name is Angel Jesus Ramirez Castellanos, and I'm 13 years old," the first said with a sly smile, followed in turn by the others:

"My name is Marcos Abraham Ramirez Castellanos, and I'm 13 years old."

"My name is Cesar Josue Ramirez Castellanos, and I'm 13 years old."

While some identical siblings find it difficult to carve out their own identities, the Ramirezes say they relish their tripleness.

"For me it's a real stroke of luck being a triplet, being able to count on my brothers," Cesar said. "The disadvantage is that sometimes they scold you or correct you for something that another one did."

Instructors rely on tricks to tell them apart.

"There's one that has a little mark above the eyebrow. Another one gets dimples when he laughs," Rodriguez said.

"Then there's another that doesn't have dimples or a mole. During exams you have to put one of them there, another one here, the other way over there, and they have to stay in that formation."

She added, however, that while the boys share the same DNA and have been trained by the same instructors, they have unique personalities that show up in their dance. One is more mischievous, another more serious, the third the most talkative.

"They have the same physical form, the same configuration of legs and arms, but in their minds, each one is unique," Rodriguez said.

The triplets say they fell in love with dance in 2007 when their mother took them to a performance of "The Nutcracker," which is put on every Christmas season and costs just pennies to attend.

All three said it never occurred to them to worry about being teased for taking up dance. Ballet is broadly popular in Cuba, and the idea of a man donning a leotard has remarkably little stigma attached to it for a society that in other ways retains some macho attitudes.

The Ramirezes enrolled in the ballet school at age 10 after passing a rigorous exam and being selected over dozens of other children with similar dreams. More than 300 boys and girls train here in eight different grades, all hoping to make it to the National Ballet.

"It's a virus that can't be cured with antibiotics," said Ramona de Saa, the school's director. "And all that passion can be felt in the school."

The grueling day runs from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mornings are devoted to traditional school subjects, while afternoons are for perfecting demi plies and barre work.

"One, two, three, four!" an instructor's voice called out during a recent rehearsal as the Ramirezes twirled around and around on tiptoe. "Again!"

"It's a career that requires a lot of sacrifice. It takes away much of your childhood," Rodriguez said. "While others maybe are at home watching cartoon movies, they have to be at rehearsal."

Netherlands' Rijksmuseum opens to the public

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Amid brass bands and a daytime fireworks display, the Netherlands' Queen Beatrix on Saturday officially reopened the Rijksmuseum, the country's national museum, after a 10-year, 375 million euro ($480 million) renovation.

The museum houses the largest collection of treasures from the Netherlands' cultural history, including works painted by Dutch masters Jan Steen, Johannes Vermeer and Rembrandt van Rijn in the country's 17th-century Golden Age. Then the Netherlands was a major naval power and Amsterdam was one of the world's most influential and wealthy cities.

The renovation by Spanish architectural firm Cruz y Ortiz sought to bring light into the courtyards at the center of the 1885 brick structure, which resembles a fairytale castle. Meanwhile the museum's displays were completely redone to modern standards, with cultural items displayed alongside artwork from the same period—and sometimes even directly related to the art or artist.

For instance, one room houses paintings portraying the June 1667 Raid on the Medway, a naval battle in which the Dutch defeated the English. The room centers on an intricate model of a ship from the period more than two meters (yards) long. It displays an actual sword and goblet once owned by the victorious Dutch Adm. Michiel de Ruyter.

Fireworks are seen during the official opening of the renovated Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Saturday April 13, 2013. AP

And above one doorway hangs the actual metal sternpiece from the English flagship HMS Royal Charles, which features a lion and a unicorn. De Ruyter's forces towed the ship away during the battle, and then took it back to the Netherlands.

Only one of the 8,000 works in the Rijksmuseum's collection returns to its original display position: Rembrandt's "The Night Watch," widely considered his greatest masterpiece. It sits at the end of the museum's main gothic-style Gallery of Honor, acting as the symbolic altarpiece of a secular church.

That enormous canvas—4.35 meters wide and 3.79 meters high (14.86 x 12.43 feet)—portrays a company of Amsterdam volunteer militiamen, rather than a religious work.

In honor of the opening by Queen Beatrix, who is the head of the Netherlands' ruling House of Orange, the museum has been outfitted with a large orange carpet leading to its new entrance. At an opening ceremony broadcast live on national television, museum Director Wim Pijbes handed the queen a ceremonial key to the museum.

Then the museum was opened to the public. It will remain open until midnight, free of charge. Tickets will normally cost 15 euros ($19).

The museum expects to welcome thousands of visitors Saturday, and up to 2 million visitors per year now that it is open again.

Biden lunches with 'Veep' star Julia Louis-Dreyfus

WASHINGTON (AP)—Watch out, Joe Biden. The other vice president is in the house.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who plays Vice President Selina Meyer on the HBO comedy "Veep," came to the White House on Friday to have lunch with Biden.

While in the West Wing, Louis-Dreyfus took the opportunity to try out the vice president's desk—the real one, not the replica she uses on the set.

"I surprised him by sitting at his desk, so he thought he'd just ask my advice on various briefs he had to deal with," Louis-Dreyfus said in an audio clip posted to the White House website. "I was happy to give him my advice, which he paid no attention to whatsoever."

"It's a day I'll never forget," she added.

Her performance as an ambitious but largely powerless No. 2 hasn't gone unnoticed by Biden.

After the former "Seinfeld" star won an Emmy award for her performance in the first season of "Veep," Biden called her to offer his congratulations, the vice president's office said.

And in 2008, when then-Sen. Biden and President Barack Obama were running for office, Biden and Louis-Dreyfus appeared together on NBC's "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," where Biden plunged the actress into the pool of a dunk tank to raise money for breast cancer. The two then shared a soggy smooch through the bars of the dunk tank.

The second season of "Veep" starts Sunday.

This Oct. 4, 2011handout photo provided by HBO shows actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus star of the HBO series "Veep". Watch out, Joe Biden. AP

Rebel Wilson prepares to open MTV Awards with song

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—Rebel Wilson sings, dances and summons laughs—and that's just in the opening moments of this weekend's MTV Movie Awards.

The Australian actress is hosting the show, and she's set to start the ceremony by singing solo.

Wilson and her co-stars from "Pitch Perfect" rehearsed a multi-genre opening medley Friday that features Wilson spoofing last year's films and spinning nunchucks.

Brittany Snow, Anna Camp and Skylar Astin, along with a troupe of gymnastic dancers, joined the first-time host at Sony Pictures Studios to run through four songs not featured in the film. MTV insists on keeping the titles a surprise until Sunday's show.

When the group finished rehearsing, Wilson thrust her fist toward the sky and shouted, "'Pitch Perfect' two!"

A sequel to the musical comedy has not been announced.

Wilson will be joined at the MTV Movie Awards by presenters such as Brad Pitt, Melissa McCarthy, Seth Rogen and Kerry Washington and performers including Selena Gomez. Jamie Foxx, Will Ferrell and Emma Watson will receive special awards at the ceremony, which will be broadcast live Sunday on MTV from 9-11 p.m. EDT.

AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 23, 2012 file photo, actress, writer and comedienne Rebel Wilson, a cast member in the film "Bachelorette," poses for a portrait at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Rick Ross apologizes for pro-rape lyrics

NEW YORK (AP)—A day after Reebok ended its relationship with Rick Ross, the rapper acknowledged that his lyrics on Rocko's song "U.O.E.N.O." were "offensive."

In a statement Friday, Ross said being a musician is "a great responsibility" and that his choice of words in the song "does not reflect my true heart."

In the song, Ross raps about giving a woman the drug MDMA, known as Molly, and having his way with her.

"Put Molly all up in her champagne, she ain't even know it, I took her home and I enjoyed that, she ain't even know it," he raps on the track released in January. It gained traction in recent weeks after women's groups and rape victims issued petitions.

"Before I am an artist, I am a father, a son, and a brother to some of the most cherished women in the world. So for me to suggest in any way that harm and violation be brought to a woman is one of my biggest mistakes and regrets," his statement said.

On Thursday, Reebok said it had terminated its contract with Ross because the rapper wasn't living "up to the values of our brand." Ross has appeared in a commercial for the Reebok Classic sneakers.

"We are very disappointed he has yet to display an understanding of the seriousness of this issue or an appropriate level of remorse," the statement said.

The Miami-based rapper first addressed the song two weeks ago in a radio interview, saying "there was a misunderstanding with the lyric." A week after that, he tweeted an apology. It was the same day the women's group UltraViolet protested outside one of Reebok's stores in Manhattan.

In his official apology, Ross also says men who listen to his music should "know that using a substance to rob a woman of her right to make a choice is not only a crime, it's wrong."

Hits by the Grammy-nominated Ross include "The Boss" and "Aston Martin Music."

Matt Damon, wife to renew vows in St. Lucia

SOURFRIERE, St. Lucia (AP)—A former top government official in St. Lucia says actor Matt Damon and his wife, Luciana Barroso, are renewing their wedding vows of eight years with a lavish party on the eastern Caribbean island.

The party is being held at the Sugar Beach resort with an invitation list including George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and Ben Affleck.

A former Cabinet minister and current CEO of a private company that oversees economic development in Soufriere says the party will help boost the island's weak economy.

Walter Francois of Soufriere Regional Development Foundation said Saturday, however, that people including fishermen and others not allowed near the hotel's beach for security reasons should be reimbursed.

Michael Jackson civil case jury pool grows to 104

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The pool of potential jurors to hear a case filed over Michael Jackson's death has grown to 104 people.

Attorneys and a judge concluded their second week of hardship screening on Friday.

In-person questioning of the panel will begin on Monday. It is expected to take multiple days for attorneys to select a panel of 12 jurors and several alternates to hear the case. Jurors must be available for 90 trial days.

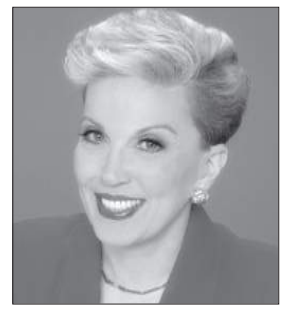
The group of 103 has been given a 24-page questionnaire assessing their knowledge about the case.

The lawsuit was filed by Jackson's mother against concert giant AEG Live. The suit claims the promoter of Jackson's planned comeback concerts failed to properly investigate the doctor convicted of involuntary manslaughter for the singer's death.

AEG has denied all wrongdoing.

Little hellion makes visits to gram's house a chore

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My daughter died in a car accident two years ago. She and her boyfriend, "Reed," had a 4-month-old daughter, "Angela." Since then, Reed has been very understanding and liberal with visitations. However, it didn't take him long to find another girlfriend, who has a 4-year-old daughter I'll call Madison.

The first time I went to pick up Angela, the new girlfriend hinted strongly that I should also take Madison. I didn't like it, but I took her. Abby, Madison is the meanest, rudest child I have ever met. She called my dad ugly, my daughter ugly and my house "stinky." I saw her push Angela down and laugh. Then she tried to smother my granddaughter by sitting on her head on the couch. The last time I brought Angela home, Madison told me that everything I bought for Angela I had to buy for her, too.

I don't want to take Madison anymore. It has been difficult losing my daughter, seeing her replaced with a new girlfriend and now being expected to include an unpleasant "step-granddaughter" in everything. But if I don't take her, I'm afraid they won't let me visit Angela. Do you have any advice?

ANGIE'S GRAM IN MISSOURI

DEAR GRAM: If you haven't already spoken to Reed and the girl's mother about her behavior, you should. Madison may act out because she's jealous of Angela and, among other things, she needs to learn better manners before she's included in any more visits. If she had pulled the shenanigans with me that she has with you, I would have taken her home immediately.

This is not to say that Madison should be permanently excluded, but you should have time with your granddaughter one-on-one. The same is true for Madison and her grandparents. You are not a built-in baby sitter, which appears to be how you have been made to feel, but nothing will change until you broach the subject.

DEAR ABBY: I feel fortunate to find myself with the love of my life at 24. "Josh" is charming, intelligent, a hard worker and a wonderful partner. I know we can achieve all the things we hope for. We have discussed where we stand on issues such as children, family, finances, living arrangements, etc. We are mostly compatible, and where there is tension, we work it through and compromise.

We are clearly headed toward engagement. He has picked out a ring and I want it badly, but I am hesitant. I am afraid I won't give him what he deserves.

I dated a man in college for three years. We talked about our future, made plans, and then I changed my mind. The pain I caused was terrible. I still regret hurting him, although I don't regret leaving. I'm afraid I will do it again. I'm so anxious I sometimes think I should bail now and cut his losses just in case. I don't think I will, but who can see the future?

My mother says I have always been obsessed with making the right choice. Am I being foolish and letting my anxieties run away with me?

SUSAN IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR SUSAN: There are better ways to cope with your anxiety than "throwing the baby out with the bathwater." You are not the same person you were in college. You have grown and are obviously more aware of the consequences of your actions.

Because you are anxious about making a commitment to "the love or your life"—someone with whom you have many things in common—it's time to schedule an appointment with a licensed counselor to discuss it. It will be time and money well spent.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

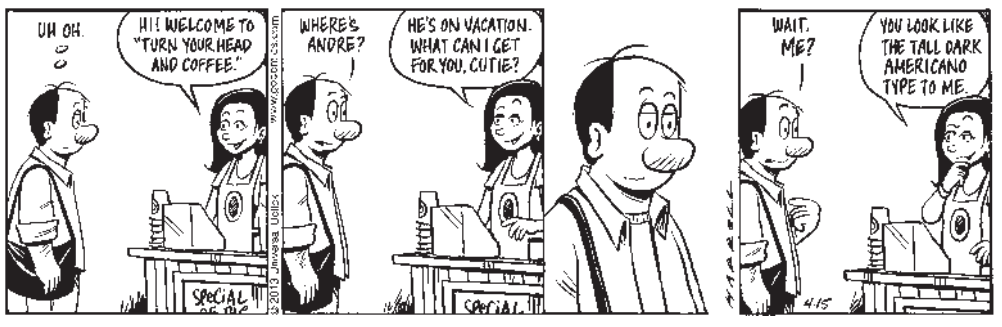
IT'S A FUNNY WORLD, HOBBES.
TRUE.
BUT IT'S NOT A HILARIOUS WORLD.
..UNLESS YOU LIKE SICK HUMOR.
THE WORLD IS PROBABLY FUNNIER TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIVE HERE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

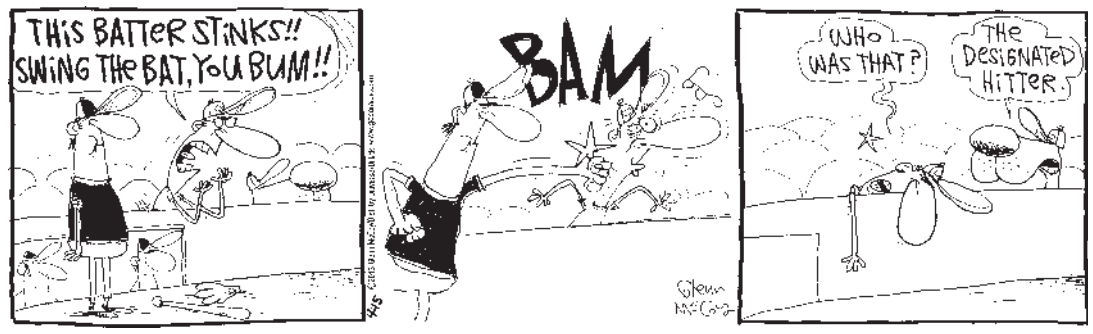
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


UH OH.
HI! WELCOME TO "TURN YOUR HEAD AND COFFEE."
WHERE'S ANDRE?
HE'S ON VACATION. WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU, CUTIE?
WAIT. ME?
YOU LOOK LIKE THE TALL DARK AMERICANO TYPE TO ME.
4/15

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

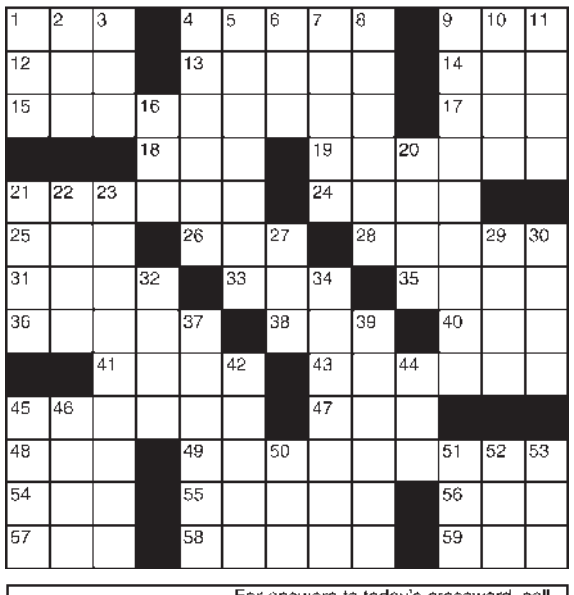
ACROSS
1 Donkey
4 Portion of an act
9 Mischievous tyke
12 Hawaiian garland
13 Overuse the mirror
14 Ultra-modern prefix
15 Clarified
17 Auto fuel
18 Upper limb
19 Lack
21 Uses tweezers
24 Long story
25 A billion years
26 Male offspring
28 Jockey's handful
31 "No — luck!"
33 Phone bk. data
35 Winter forecast
36 Different
38 Charlotte's creation
40 Greek H
41 War god
43 Muffle
45 Landi of 1930s movies
47 Plant bristle
48 Lair
49 Didn't vote, perhaps
54 Rd.
55 Shunned one
56 Wall climber
57 Central
58 Obliterate
59 Grant opponent

DOWN
1 Heady brew
2 Gender
3 Taste a drink
4 Activates
5 Shade of red
6 Still, in verse
7 Requirements
8 Ingratiate
9 Deep-seated
10 Vegan's no-no
11 Luxurious
16 Fond du —, Wis.
20 A long time
21 Mexican money
22 Lummox
23 "Django —" (film title)
27 Promptly
29 Brief letter
30 Pavlova portrayal
32 Towel embroidery word
34 Tranquilizes
37 Auction, so to speak
39 Caveat word
42 Cavalry sword
44 Blackbird
45 Cheese choice
46 Jeans-maker Strauss
50 Hot tub
51 Zero
52 First lady
53 Coloring agent

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	Y		D	O	H		F	I	U	D	F
L	I	E		A	R	E		L	A	S	E	R
U	R	N		D	A	M	A	S	C	F	N	F
M	E	T		S	T	A	G	E				
B	R	A	G		E	N	E		S	K	E	W
			H	U	D		D	A	M	O	N	E
I	D	I	O	T				G	U	I	D	E
D	A	M	S	E	L		G	A	R			
S	W	A	T		O	D	E		F	O	A	L
			B	U	E	N	O		F	R	O	
D	A	M	N	A	T	I	O	N		T	U	B
O	R	I	O	N		G	M	T		E	B	B
M	A	D	R	E		N	E	O		N	A	Y

Friday's answer 4-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emma Watson, 23; Seth Rogen, 31; Emma Thompson, 54; Roy Clark, 80

Happy Birthday: Mix old and new ideas together. Change is good, but a force play isn't. If something doesn't feel right, wait until it does. You have to earn respect if you want to control your destiny. Size up what others have to offer and you will know exactly what's expected of you. An important partnership will help you advance. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 28, 35, 37, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Share your experience and make a point to communicate and participate in events that will help you broaden your knowledge as well as your friendships. Making personal alterations will result in good fortune. Believe in yourself and follow through. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pay more attention to what you say and how you present yourself and how you look. The impression you leave will make a difference to what you are invited to attend or join in the future. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to the truth. If you keep changing your mind, someone will get suspicious. Put in an honest effort and be responsible. Do something nice for someone, but don't give in to pressure or bullying. Avoid emotional manipulation. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Follow your imagination and you'll come up with solutions or ideas that will help you gain respect and support. Getting involved in events or activities that contribute to your knowledge and skills will also lead to worthwhile new friendships. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll gather information if you attend a conference, seminar or any event that will broaden your skills, knowledge or experience. Don't let love stand between you and your professional goals. A change of pace, location or activities will do you good. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Finish what you start and honor promises made. A costly mistake will unfold if you allow someone to push you into a risky joint venture or investment. Put more time and effort into honing your skills and updating your appearance. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Think big and make the changes that will keep you happy. Knowledge will be the key to getting ahead. Attend any event that offers you greater experience or get involved in a personal journey that will expand your interests. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Instigate whatever it is that will help you get one step closer to your goals. Readdress any financial or medical problems that have been lingering on for too long. Put love on the line and make your needs and your intentions clear. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Reassess your personal relationships. Curb spending habits or rearrange your living space to accommodate your plans. Don't sit idle when it's up to you to make things happen. Ask for help or call in a favor. Trust in your judgment. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Bide your time, observe what everyone else does and refrain from jeopardizing your position. Once you make a move it will be hard to reverse your situation. Be sure or sit tight. Mental and physical confrontations are possible. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Follow through with your plans. Update what you have developed or considered doing in the past and you will find a way to incorporate your skills into something worthwhile. There is money to be made, but you must go through the proper channels. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Persuasion will draw the support you need to move forward with your plans. Love is on the rise, but indulgence will come between you and your happiness if you aren't careful. Discipline and moderation are key to your success. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, adaptable and quick to make decisions.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		7		1		6	2	
					9			3
1				2	6			8
						1	4	
4		2		8		3		7
	7	9						
6			8	5				9
5			2					
	3	8		6		2		4

Difficulty Level ★ 4/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	7	9	5	6	8	3	2
6	3	5	1	2	8	4	7	9
2	8	9	3	7	4	6	1	5
9	6	4	2	1	3	5	8	7
7	1	3	8	4	5	2	9	6
8	5	2	6	9	7	3	4	1
5	7	6	4	3	1	9	2	8
4	9	8	7	6	2	1	5	3
3	2	1	5	8	9	7	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SPANX **Solution: 9 letters**

H	T	D	S	U	P	E	R	Y	T	U	A	E	B	T
O	I	E	H	A	S	N	E	M	A	L	G	U	N	S
S	G	D	E	C	L	I	S	M	O	T	T	O	B	I
I	H	L	E	M	O	L	M	U	I	D	E	M	O	A
E	T	I	R	A	P	N	T	T	B	N	E	M	O	W
R	S	G	S	A	N	O	T	H	S	E	Z	I	S	H
Y	T	O	N	E	O	D	W	R	E	C	D	Ⓑ	T	G
T	Y	T	A	N	K	S	S	E	O	W	S	Ⓞ	I	I
I	S	G	N	I	G	G	E	L	R	L	A	Ⓓ	E	H
N	R	A	E	W	G	E	L	C	E	I	R	Ⓨ	Y	O
R	U	S	H	A	P	E	O	R	R	E	N	S	A	O
E	S	I	M	A	C	T	A	S	S	O	K	G	Y	D
T	S	P	O	T	T	P	U	S	H	I	P	S	I	I
A	E	S	I	O	P	L	U	F	R	E	W	O	P	E
M	T	X	N	A	P	S	S	T	Y	N	N	I	K	S

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All The Way, Apparel, Beauty, Body, Boostie-Yay, Bottoms, Camis, Collect, Control, Cotton, Crop, Dress, Empowering, Gilded, Glam, Hide And Sleek, High Waist, Hips, Hoodies, Hosiery, Leggings, Legwear, Maternity, Medium, Men's, Online, Pants, Plus, Poise, Powerful, Shape, Sheers, Sizes, Skinny, Skirt, Snug, Spanx, Super, Tanks, Tights, Tone, Tops, Tummy, Women

Last Friday's Answer: Pinch

Books: THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 or 36 sized 8½" x 11" each, $9.95 postage and handling for the first book and $2.95 each additional book, etc., mailed to Uclick, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-591-6485. Certain restrictions, exclusions, guarantees, prices, and details may apply. ©2013 Uclick

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Royal Thai Massage is looking for 3 Masseuses w/ 1 yr. exp. Green card or US Citizen preferred. Call 234-2521.

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1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $5.55/hr. At least 3 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

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1 Chef/Restaurant Manager (Korean and Western cuisine): $5.55-8.20/hr. At least 5 years' experience in Korean and Western cuisine with license in both required. High school diploma or equivalent required. Email resume to star@hanmisaipan.com.

Alexander Inc. is looking for an Accountant. Must have at least 3 years of experience. Knowledge in QuickBooks & MS Excel is an advantage. Call 234-5117.

1-Data Encoder/Office Clerk. Salary $5.55p/h. 2-3 yrs exp. Email resume to LP Accounting at loidapark@yahoo.com.

WANT TO BUY

We wish to buy mileage — United/Star Alliance. Please call 234-6533.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600sq. ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

1-Room Attendant
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PIC Management

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Find today's solution in classified section

Kobe out for season with torn Achilles tendon

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Kobe Bryant had surgery Saturday on his torn Achilles tendon, ending his season with two games left in the Los Angeles Lakers' playoff chase.

Lakers trainer Gary Vitti thinks Bryant will need at least six to nine months for recovery from the most serious injury of his 17-year NBA career. Given Bryant's history of swift recovery from countless minor injuries, Vitti and Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak both believe the 34-year-old guard could be back for their season opener in the fall.

"I think that's a realistic goal for him, based on what he was talking about this morning," Kupchak said at the Lakers' training complex after visiting Bryant at the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic.

Bryant completely tore his left Achilles tendon late in the Lakers' 118-116 win over Golden State on Friday night, falling to the hardwood after pushing off his planted foot in an ordinary move toward the hoop. Although he stayed in the game to hit two tying free throws with 3:08 to play, Bryant's season was over.

Bryant's foot will be immobilized for about a month to prevent him from stretching out the tendon, followed by a lengthy rehabilitation process. Nobody knows how the injury will affect Bryant's play, but his decision to have surgery less than 24 hours after getting hurt suggests he's determined to get back on top swiftly.

"He's already taken the challenge," Vitti said. "For us, it's going to be trying to slow him down."

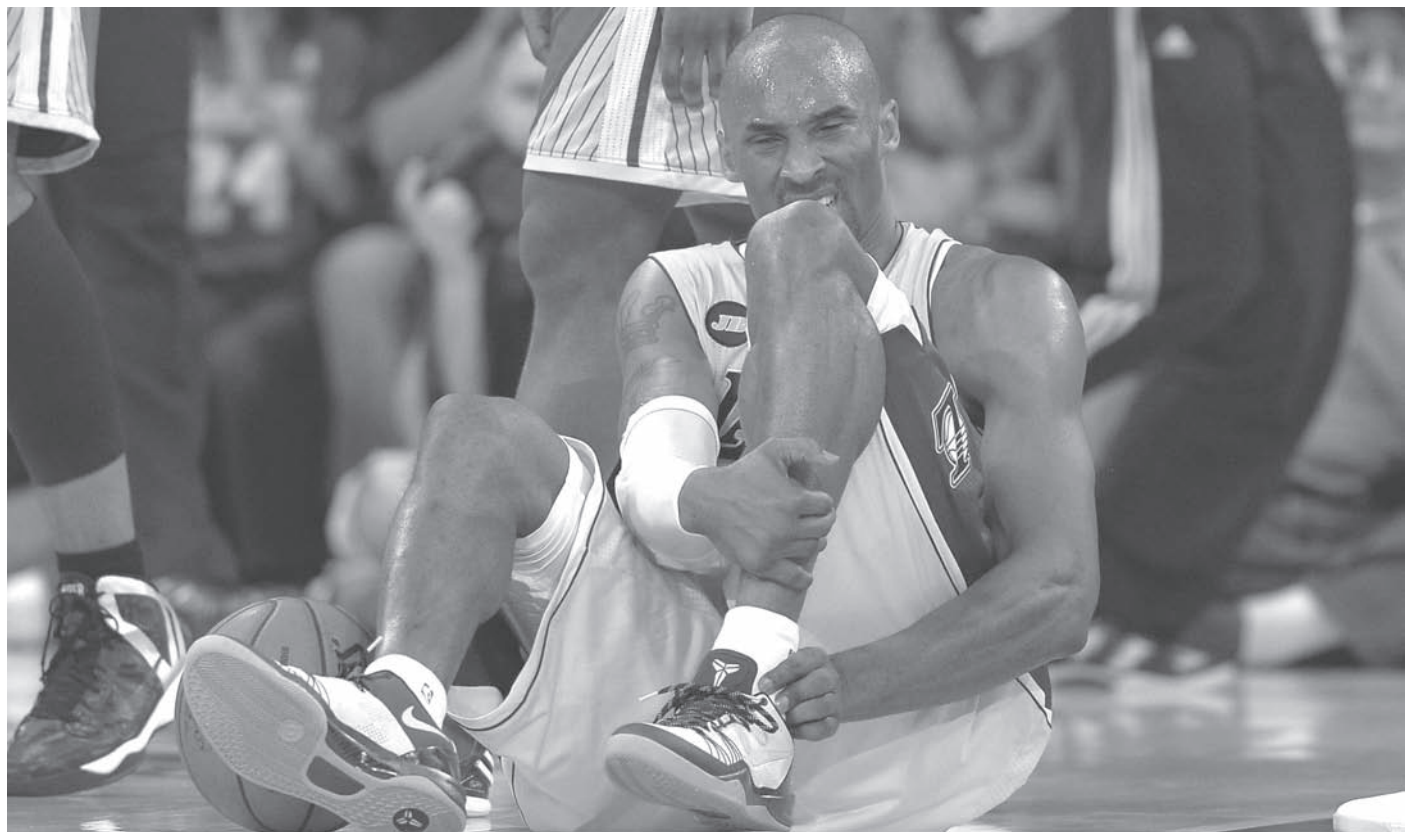
And while it's far too early to predict exactly when Bryant will be back, the Lakers say they wouldn't consider parting ways with their franchise player, who will make nearly $30.5 million next year. If the Lakers used the amnesty clause on Bryant in early July, they could save possibly $80 million in luxury taxes.

"That's not even something that we've discussed," Kupchak said. "That's the furthest thing from our mind right now."

While the rest of the Lakers prepared for their final two regular-season games in a tumultuous season, Bryant's injury left many Lakers fans wondering whether the club had done enough to protect Bryant from himself.

The fourth-leading scorer in NBA history has logged heavy minutes all season on his high-mileage legs, basically dictating his own playing time while the Lakers chased a playoff spot. He has played far more minutes than any other NBA player over 30, including nearly 46 minutes per game in the seven games leading up to Friday night.

"Shame they ran him into the ground," tweeted Clippers forward Matt Barnes, Bryant's teammate with the Lakers in the previous two seasons.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant grimaces after being injured during the second half of their NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors, Friday, April 12, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Bryant simply doesn't like to sit out, even when he's hobbling - as he was Friday night after hyperextending his left knee early in the second half. While Achilles tendon tears can occur in athletes under any level of stress, even first-year coach Mike D'Antoni acknowledged he might have forced Bryant to sit out a bit more if the Lakers weren't desperate for every victory to stay in playoff position.

"He's a warrior," D'Antoni said. "All I do is respect what he wanted to do for the franchise and the city. He's earned the right to do certain things. ... I would have probably (made Bryant rest more) if we were comfortably in the playoffs. When you're trying to win at all cost, maybe you make some decisions that you'd better not."

Kupchak said the Lakers' leadership doesn't hold D'Antoni responsible for not overriding Bryant's decisions. Bryant has played more than 38 minutes per game this season, tops among his teammates.

"I don't think Mike is at blame here one bit," Kupchak said. "Even if you take Kobe out of a game, there's a lot of times where he'll just get up and put himself back in the game. ... I spoke to Kobe about 10 days ago about the 48-minute thing ... and I said, `I have concerns.' His message to me was, `Mitch, I hear what you're saying, but we've got to get into the playoffs, and I'm playing, and there's nothing you can do about it.'"

Los Angeles (43-37), which hosts San Antonio on Sunday and Houston on Wednesday, is one game ahead of the Utah Jazz (42-38) for the final postseason spot in the Western Conference. Utah holds the tiebreaker, which means the Lakers must finish one game ahead to make the playoffs for the 16th time in Bryant's career.

Even if the Lakers hang on for a likely first-round matchup with defending conference champion Oklahoma City, the NBA playoffs will go on without Bryant for the first time since 2005.

"You always want the game's best stars in the postseason," Miami guard James Jones said. "That's when everyone is watching. That's when our audience is captivated. You want our best players out there to give fans the best product. Unfortunately, things like this happen, and you just wish him a speedy recovery."

Bryant's injury inspired an outpouring of support across the league, with everyone from LeBron James to Chris Paul tweeting words of support.

"I love the fact that he got up and made two free throws with a torn Achilles," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "I'd have been lying on the floor crying like a baby. ... He is as tough as a competitor as we've seen - ever. You know, he'll be missed. I would love him to be healthy, but he's not going to be, and we're going to miss him."

Bryant fought back tears in the locker room moments after learning his tendon was torn, and he wrote a lengthy Facebook post about his injury early Saturday morning, saying his "frustration is unbearable."

"Why the hell did this happen ?!?" Bryant wrote. "Makes no damn sense. Now I'm supposed to come back from this and be the same player Or better at 35?!? How in the world am I supposed to do that?? "

He added: "Maybe this is how my book ends. Maybe Father Time has defeated me... Then again maybe not!"

"One day, the beginning of a new career journey will commence. Today is NOT that day."

Bryant's spirits had improved by the time he got to the hospital, where he put photos of himself going into an MRI machine and preparing for surgery.

Bryant has been ferociously competitive while trying to keep the Lakers' playoff hopes afloat during a season featuring an awful start, an early coaching change and countless smaller setbacks along the way, many due to injuries. While most of his teammates sat out significant stretches with various ailments during the season, Bryant played through a sprained ankle and countless minor woes, missing only two games.

"We have a strong, deep team," said Gasol, who had a triple-double against Golden State. "We have high-quality players that are experienced and ready for a challenge. We're fueled by these injuries. We want to take on the challenge and prove we're a good team even without our best player."

The star-packed roster assembled by Kupchak last summer has played together for just a few games this season, thanks to a staggering stretch of serious injuries.

Gasol, Nash, Steve Blake and Jordan Hill all have missed large chunks of the season, and Howard has struggled to get back to full strength while recovering from offseason back surgery and a nagging torn labrum in his right shoulder. Antawn Jamison will need offseason surgery on his injured right wrist, and Metta World Peace recently came back a month earlier than expected from surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee—although he appears to be nowhere close to full strength.

"If you look at our season, it's been a nightmare," Vitti said. "When you try to look at the whys, it's bad luck."

Jodie Meeks, averaging 8.0 points, will start in Bryant's spot against the Spurs. The Lakers won't know until game time whether Nash will return from a right hamstring injury that has kept him out for six games.

The Lakers are likely to rely heavily on their big-man duo of Gasol and Howard, two proven veteran scorers who have worked together splendidly on occasion. During Los Angeles' win over Golden State, Gasol embraced a playmaking role and threw a series of alley-oops to Howard, who addressed the team after practice Saturday.

"We know what we have to do," said Howard, an unrestricted free agent this summer. "We know he's out, but we can't put our heads down like it's over with. We have to go out there and play. We have a lot of talented guys on this team. I think we can accomplish something great, with or without Kobe."

Clippers edge Grizzlies 91-87 to win season series

In Memphis, Tennessee (AP)—Chris Paul hit a free throw with 18.3 seconds left, and Los Angeles edged Memphis in a possible preview of a first-round playoff series.

With the win, the Clippers took the season series 3-1 for what could be a crucial tiebreaker giving Los Angeles home-court advantage in the postseason even though the teams now are tied at 54-26. That puts them both one-half game behind Denver for the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference.

DeAndre Jordan led the Clippers with 16 points. Paul finished with 13, Blake Griffin had 12 and Willie Green 10.

Marc Gasol had 18 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists for Memphis. Zach Randolph finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Celtics 120, Magic 88

In Orlando, Courtney Lee scored 20 points and Jeff Green added 17 as the Boston Celtics cruised to a 120-88 victory over the Orlando Magic on Saturday night.

The win locked up the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference for Boston, which never trailed in winning its eighth straight over Orlando.

All five Celtics starters reached double figures, with Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce scoring 14 and 12 points, respectively, after resting Friday against Miami.

Tobias Harris led the Magic with 22 points, and Nik Vucevic added 16 points and 12 rebounds. Orlando hasn't won back-to-back games since December.

Bobcats 95, Bucks 85

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kemba Walker had 21 points, Josh McRoberts nearly had a triple-double and Charlotte handed Milwaukee its ninth straight road loss.

The loss locked the Bucks into eighth place in the Eastern Conference, meaning they'll draw the defending champion Miami Heat in the first round of the playoffs.

McRoberts had 18 points, nine rebounds and a career-high nine assists. Bismack Biyombo chipped in with 13 points and 17 rebounds, as the NBA-worst Bobcats dominated the Bucks 52-36 on the boards.

Mike Dunleavy had 19 points and Monta Ellis added 16 to lead the Bucks, who have lost 11 of their last 14.

Timberwolves 105, Suns 93

In Minneapolis, Ricky Rubio had a career-high 24 points, 10 assists and five steals, and J.J. Barea scored 16 points to lead Minnesota past Phoenix.

Derrick Williams added 15 points and six boards for the Timberwolves, who gave coach Rick Adelman victory No. 1,001. It's also the first time the Wolves (30-50) have won at least 30 games in a season without Kevin Garnett on the roster.

Markieff Morris had 20 points and nine rebounds and Jared Dudley scored 16 for the Suns, who turned the ball over 28 times. The Suns have lost 15 of their last 17 and already are assured of having their worst record since their inaugural season in 1968-69.

Snedeker, Cabrera tied for lead at Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—The longest, strangest day at the Masters for Tiger Woods began with a text message from his agent Saturday morning to meet with Augusta National officials nearly six hours before his tee time. It ended some 10 hours later with a relieved fist pump for a key par that kept him in the mix for another green jacket.

It was far different for the two guys atop the leaderboard.

Brandt Snedeker, an emotional wreck when he last contended at the Masters five years ago, was the model of calm as he opened with 12 pars and fired off three late birdies for a 3-under 69.

"I'm not here to get a good finish," Snedeker said. "I'm not here to finish top 5. I'm here to win, and that's all I'm going to be focused on tomorrow. I realize what I have to do to do that, and I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that happens."

Angel Cabrera, who has virtually disappeared from the world scene since he won the Masters four years ago, felt comfortable on a difficult course as he birdied two of the last three holes for a 69 to join Snedeker in a share of the lead. It marks the third time in the last six years Cabrera has been in the last group at the Masters.

"That helps you to be more calm and have that experience," Cabrera said. "It all adds up and helps."

They were at 7-under 209 heading into a final group that figures to be as dynamic as ever, with 13 players separated by five shots, a list that includes major champions (Woods, Cabrera), aging champions (Bernhard Langer) and a half-dozen players who have been on the cusp of majors before.

Woods looms large, for more than just his star power.

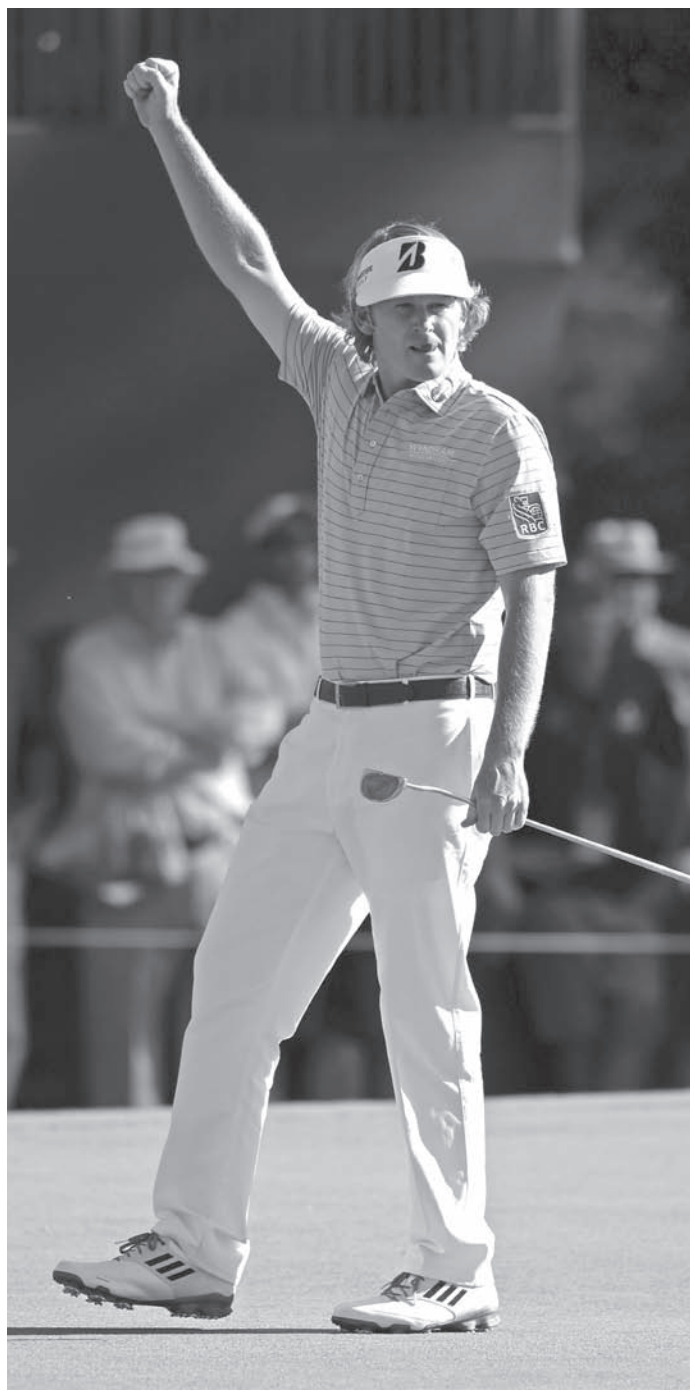
For a few tense hours in the morning, it was not clear if Woods was going to get a chance to play.

Masters officials discovered late Friday evening that Woods had taken a bad drop in the second round and should have added two shots to his score.

Under normal circumstances, he would have been disqualified for signing an incorrect card. Officials took the blame for not alerting Woods to a potential problem—they found nothing wrong at first glance before he signed—and kept him in the tournament with two shots added to his score. Woods was covered under a 2-year-old rule that prevents DQs when a violation is reported by television viewers.

"It certainly was a distraction early," Woods said after three birdies on his last seven holes for a 70. "It happens and you move on. I was ready to play come game time."

So was Snedeker.



AP

Brandt Snedeker punches the air after making a birdie putt on the 15th hole during the third round of the Masters golf tournament Saturday, April 13, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.

He's been building toward a moment like this for the last year, and he seized his chance on a glorious afternoon by playing without a bogey. It was only two months ago when Snedeker was regarded the hottest player in golf when in three straight weeks he was runner-up to Woods, runner-up to Phil Mickelson and then won at Pebble Beach. His momentum was slowed by sore ribs that kept him out of golf for a month, though he appears to be hitting his stride.

"I've spent 32 years of my life getting ready for tomorrow," Snedeker said. "I'm going to be disappointed if I don't win. Period."

Cabrera, whose two major titles include a Masters win in 2009, has plunged to No. 269 in the world.

"I've been working very hard for this moment," Cabrera said through an interpreter. "And I've got to take the opportunity."

For Adam Scott, it's a chance at redemption.

He was runner-up at the Masters two years ago, though the fresher wounds are from last summer at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, where the Australian bogeyed his last four holes and finished one shot behind in the British Open. Scott rammed home a 25-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole for a 69 and was one shot behind.

Two more Aussies, Marc Leishman (72) and Jason Day (73) were another shot behind, giving the blokes from Down Under as good a chance as ever to give their country some happy memories from Augusta National. It's the only major an Australian has never won, a point driven home with every mention of Greg Norman losing a six-shot lead on the last day in 1996.

"Obviously, to win the Masters would be incredible," Scott said. "It would be great for Australia. We've never looked better odds-wise going into a Sunday, except that one year in 1996. It's going to be a hell of a round tomorrow."

Day was in the lead for most of the day, going 18 straight holes without a bogey until he missed short par putts on the last two holes.

Matt Kuchar (69) was three shots back, and Woods was right behind.

Woods, the No. 1 player in the world who already has won three times this year, was the heavy favorite going into the Masters to capture a green jacket for the first time since 2005 and end his five-year drought in the majors.

His big move came after a bogey on the 11th hole, leaving him six shots behind as he made his way through a back nine that has not treated him kindly of late. But he ran off three birdies on the next four holes, and made clutch par saves on the 16th and 18th to stay in the game.

"I'm right there in the ball game, "Woods said. "I'm four back with a great shot to win this championship."

Bumgarner shuts down Cubs in Giants' 3-2 win

CHICAGO (AP)—Madison Bumgarner (3-0) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings on a near freezing afternoon, and Marco Scutaro had three hits for San Francisco.

Pinch-hitter Dioner Navarro, batting right-handed, had a two-out, two-run homer off Bumgarner in the seventh. On Friday, the switch-hitter had a tying, pinch homer from the left side.

Pirates 3, Reds 1

In Pittsburgh, Jeff Locke (1-1) won for only the second time in three major league seasons, and Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati after starter Johnny Cueto left in the fifth inning with a strained right triceps.

After striking out Pedro Alvarez starting the fifth, Cueto threw a first-pitch strike to Travis Snider then began shaking his right arm. A Reds trainer visited Cueto on the mound, briefly massaged the pitcher's upper arm, and both then walked to the dugout.

Marlins 2, Phillies 1

In Miami, Chris Coghlan hit a game-ending single against a draw-in infield with one out in the ninth inning, giving Miami just its second win.

Marlins 20-year old phenomenon Jose Fernandez pitched six scoreless innings to outduel Cole Hamels, and Miami (2-9), playing without slugger Giancarlo Stanton for the second straight day because of a bruised left shoulder, became baseball's last team to win two games this year.

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Hyun-Jin Ryu struck out nine in six innings, getting his first three major league hits in the process, and Los Angeles held off Arizona.

Adrian Gonzalez went 3 for 4 with a home run and two RBIs as the Dodgers stopped a six-game losing streak in Arizona dating to last season. Matt Kemp singled in two runs, Skip Schumaker had an RBI double and Andre Ethier singled in a run for Los Angeles.

Rockies 9, Padres 5

In San Diego, Wilin Rosario had a career-high four hits and drove in three runs, and Jhoulys Chacin beat San Diego for the second time this season.

Rosario broke a 1-1 tie in the second with his fourth home run of the season, a two-run drive off Edinson Volquez (0-3). Rosario made it 5-1 with an RBI single in the third, singled off Thad Weber leading off the fifth and singled off Joe Thatcher in the ninth.

Tigers 7, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, Prince Fielder homered for the second straight game, Torii Hunter hit his first clout since joining Detroit to help back Justin Verlander and the Tigers snapped the Oakland Athletics' nine-game winning streak.

Jhonny Peralta followed Fielder's leadoff shot in the fourth with a three-run homer.

A's nemesis Verlander (2-1) outpitched Oakland lefty Brett Anderson before a sellout crowd.

Orioles 5, Yankees 3

In New York, Nolan Reimold, Ryan Flaherty and Nick Markakis hit solo home runs, and Baltimore stopped the Yankees' four-game winning string.

Nate McLouth doubled twice, singled and made a nifty catch in left field to back Jason Hammel (2-1).

Indians 9, White Sox 4

In Cleveland, Mark Reynolds hit a grand slam in a big fifth inning and Zach McAllister pitched into the seventh, leading the Cleveland Indians to a 9-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Saturday.

Reynolds had an RBI single to give Cleveland a 3-2 lead in the third inning. He connected off White Sox ace Chris Sale in a six-run fifth and tied a career high with five RBIs.

Red Sox 2, Rays 1, 10 innings

In Boston, Shane Victorino had a well-placed RBI single into a five-man infield in the 10th inning that lifted the Red Sox to a win over Tampa Bay.

David Ross had a solo homer for Boston, which snapped a two-game losing streak.

Junichi Tazawa (2-0) pitched one inning for the win.

Blue Jays 3, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Kansas, after finding out Jose Reyes likely will be sidelined until the All-Star break, Toronto got its first win from R.A. Dickey.

The NL Cy Young Award winner allowed one run and five hits in 6 1-3 innings, and Jose Bautista backed him with a two-run homer.

James Shields (1-2) was a hard-luck loser for the Royals, pitching a two-hitter with six strikeouts and three walks.

Angels 5, Astros 4

In Anaheim, California, Albert Pujols hit a two-run double off Jose Veras with two outs in the ninth inning, Josh Hamilton hit his first home run for Los Angeles and the Angels stopped a five-game losing streak.

Jose Veras (0-1) came on in the ninth to protect a 4-3 lead for Lucas Harrell and walked No. 9 hitter Luis Jimenez with one out. J.B. Shuck flied out, Mike Trout reached on a two-out infield single to the left side and Pujols followed with a drive inside third base and down the left-field line, giving the Angels their first win in five home games this season.

Rangers 3, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Elvis Andrus and Adrian Beltre each hit two-out, RBI singles in the eighth inning to lift Texas over Seattle.

Joe Ortiz (2-0) pitched two innings for his second win in three days. Joe Nathan pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save in four chances.

Braves 3, Nationals 1

In Washington, Tim Hudson pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Evan Gattis homered, and the Atlanta Braves beat Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals 3-1 Saturday for their eighth straight victory.

Hudson (2-0) allowed one run, walked none and struck out three in improving his record against Washington to 15-5. He also singled twice off Washington ace Stephen Strasburg (1-2), who gave up two unearned runs and five hits in six innings.

Cardinals 8, Brewers 0

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright (2-1) pitched a four-hitter for his fifth career shutout and drove in two runs with three hits, two in a seven-run sixth inning. St. Louis has thrown three consecutive shutouts.

Milwaukee ace Yovani Gallardo (0-1) allowed six runs—five earned—and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings. Gallardo dropped to 1-10 with a 6.83 ERA against the Cardinals; including a defeat in the 2011 NL division series, he's 1-11 with a 6.86 ERA.

Mets 4, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Matt Harvey didn't allow a hit until Justin Morneau homered off the right-field foul pole with two outs in the seventh inning and led the Mets over the Twins.

Harvey (3-0) pitched past the seventh for the first time in 13 career major league starts, allowing one run and two hits in eight innings with six strikeouts and two walks.

Before Morneau's homer—his first this season—Minnesota's only hard-hit ball came on Eduardo Escobar's lineout to first base in the third.

Rigondeaux unanimously outpoints Donaire

LARRY FLEISHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING

NEW YORK (AP)—Guillermo Rigondeaux retained his WBA super bantamweight championship and added the WBO super bantamweight belt, unanimously outpointing Nonito Donaire on Saturday night at Radio City Music Hall.

Rigondeaux improved to 12-0, receiving winning scores of 114-113, 115-112 and 116-111 in the unification bout. He failed to knock out his opponent for only the fourth time since turning pro, but overcame being knocked down twice in the opening minute of the 10th round in a performance that had some booing the lack of action.

Rigondeaux's speed appeared to be too much for Donaire (31-2), who was trying to defend his WBO super bantamweight belt for the fifth time. Donaire, the Professional Boxing Writers Association fighter of the year for 2012, was handed his first loss in 30 fights since 2001.

"I apologize," Donaire said. "I wanted to deliver. During the last two rounds, I got stupid. I didn't do my job. I didn't use my jab and go to my left. I have no excuse. He beat me tonight. I gave it all I got. I never studied the fight and I should have."

The Cuban defector, a two-time gold medalist believed to have fought over 400 amateur bouts, landed 129 of 396 punches. Donaire landed only 82 of 352 punches and by the time the fight ended, he was trying to avoid further swelling on his right eye.

"We fought the Cuban boxing way, hit and don't get hit," trainer Pedro Diaz said. "We made Donaire look very bad."

Donaire appeared to knock down Rigondeaux in the opening seconds of the 10th, but referee Benjy Esteves ruled it a slip. After being dropped with a left hand, Rigondeaux quickly got up.

Going into the 12th round, judges Tom Schreck and Julie Lederman had the fight in favor of Rigondeaux, with Schreck scoring it 105-103 and Lederman 106-102. John Stewart had the fight even at 104-104.

"He was pitching a shutout," trainer Diaz said. "He won every round. He was throwing more punches and being more aggressive."

Rigondeaux ended his biggest victory as a pro by opening the 12th with three hard lefts and then began punishing Donaire with a series of punches along the ropes.

LONG DE FC

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tried to block the shot, but the ball just went over his head and dropped into the goal.

Also scoring for Long De ware Wu Yi and Zhe Zi in the 29th and 63rd minute, respectively. Completing the squad are Zhao Xin and Luo Xue Fei, Shawson Zhou, Wang Xu, Sheng Xiao, Zhang Yu Feng, Chen Jun Ping, Zhu Lang, Gu Yuan Yan, Hu Zheng Fei, Huang Wen Bin, Shi Hai Dong, Cao Jie, Li Meng, Geng Zhe, Han Pin Xiong, Jin Hua, Zie Gang, Li Wen Bin, and Wang Rui. Joining Long De strikers were club president Shawson Zhou and vice president Wang Xu.

"It was a nice game, they were young and fast. However, we are a more experienced team and that helped us win the game. Hopefully, we can win again tomorrow before we head back to Nanjing," said Xu, whose team was scheduled to meet a selection of players from M-League Division 1's Matansa FC, Kanoa FC, Sun Palace FC, and Shirley's FC last night.

Xu added he wished Saipan players will visit Nanjing in the future and compete with other teams there.

"We love to host Saipan players. They are welcome at Nanjing. It will be nice if we will compete against different teams, it helps our players become better ones," said Xu.

Tan Holdings, which ruled the inaugural edition of the M-League in December last year, made repeated attempts to score against the visitors, but simply could not connect. Long De also dominated possessions, forcing Tan Holdings to be more active on defense rather than find time orchestrating its offense.

JONES

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in the women's open singles that dated back since 2008. Last Saturday's victory in the women's open singles was also Minor's third straight against Lopez.

The top-ranked Minor marched into the finals after beating Negahr Rastguiy in the semis last Saturday morning. Rastguiy advanced, following a 7-5, 1-6, 6-1 triumph over Carol Lee last Friday. Lopez also played last Friday and eliminated Isabel Heras, 6-1, 6-0, to arrange another title showdown with Minor.

Other singles champions in Week 2 of the PIC tournament, supported by PIC-Saipan, PTC (Gatorade and Monster), Thai Spa, and Hollywood Theaters, were Luther Lizama, Osaky Keller, and Marivic Rosario.

Lizama prevailed in the round-robin men's 4.0 singles, beating Eli Buenaventura (walkover) and Gary Ramsey, 6-3, 6-4. Buenaventura settled for the runner-up honors, after defeating Ramsey last Sunday, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

In the men's 3.0 singles, Keller clinched the crown against four other players. He made it to the finals after ousting Timothy Park in the semis last Saturday morning, 6-0, 6-1. In the finals, Keller was pitted against Jeong Ho Kim and cruised to a 6-4, 6-2 win. Kim barged into the title game after knocking off Dong Gu Gyon, 6-1, 6-1.

In the women's 3.0, Rosario earned three wins to secure the championship. She first downed Sally Hwang last Saturday morning, 6-1, 5-0 (retired), and then topped junior player Malikaw Miyawaki in the semis last Saturday afternoon, 6-1, 6-2, to advance to the finals. Rosario went on to keep her winning run in the weekend tournament after slipping past Chieko Nagao in the yesterday's finals, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5.

Nagao won a finals berth in the upper half of the draw after blanking Antonio Reyes, 6-0, 6-0, and sweeping Flor Jones, 6-2, 6-1.

Meanwhile, other results in the PIC tournament will be reported later this week.

FALCONS

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with a 3-1 advantage when the Falcons' first two batters Koby Lifoifoi and Aven Evangelista reached home plate off the Rockies miscues to force a tie, 3-all, with no outs.

Next to bat for the Falcons was Ace Evangelista, who eventually scored the winning run. He advanced to first off an error, moved to second after fourth batter Traven Quitugua walked, made it to third off a wild pitch, and then reached home off a fielder's choice to end the match.

NSA Braves 4, Red Sox 1

In the second game last Saturday, the NSA Braves topped the Red Sox to gain their eighth win in 10 games.

The Braves shut out the Red Sox in the first five innings with pitcher Jeremy Ngiraked retiring seven batters and giving up only three hits before allowing a double in the sixth inning. Greg Sablan nailed the double at the top of the sixth and also scored the Red Sox's lone run in the match off the Braves' error. However, the Red Sox failed to extend the game as after Sablan's run, the next two batters were knocked out.

Before Greg Sablan's run, the Braves built a 3-0 lead after five complete innings. Isaiah Teigita scored one run in the first off a Red Sox' miscue and got one more in the fifth off Noel Cabrera's grounder. Robin Sablan delivered the two other runs for the Braves in the third and fifth inning and both were nailed off errors.

Laolay Bay 14, IT&E 3

In last Saturday's opener, Kagman Laolao Bay waltzed to victory after only four innings.

Laolao now has a 7-3 record to boost its chance for the playoffs, while IT&E fell to a 1-9 slate and is already out of the running for tickets to the next round. Only the Top 8 teams will advance to the single-elimination playoffs.

Laolao drilled all its runs in the second innings, as its batters were right on target, while IT&E committed one error after another. Pedro Maratita led the second-inning attack with his four RBIs, as he batted twice in that inning, scored one run, and made a single and a double. Five Laolao batters logged two runs apiece in the second-inning hitting spree, as IT&E made a lot of wild pitches, and throwing and fielding errors.

Before the monumental collapse, IT&E managed to even the game after one complete inning, 3-0, with its first three batters making it home off Laolao's lapses.

Little Legals 16, Twins 1

In last Thursday's game the Kagman Little Legals (5-5) crushed the Twins (2-8).

A 9-run bottom of the first was all the Little Legals needed to cruise to the win. The Little Legals scored most of the runs in the first inning off the Twins' errors and the former bagged the victory after only three and a half innings.

The Twins recorded their lone run at the top of the third with Brandon Delos Reyes' single driving Craig Borja home. However, the Twins bid to hit the scoreboard anew in the top of the fourth was spoiled by Kagman closer Gloyd Martin, who struck out their foe's first three batters.

SABLAN

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man—with the former recording a batting average of .393 with his 11-for-28 clip and the latter earning .385 off a 10-for-26 performance at the plate.

The D-9ers' Rocco Reyes is next at sixth place with hi .379 average (11-for-29), followed by the Yankees' Brian Camacho (.367/11-for-3), the Angels' Nunu Kapileo (.343/12-for-35), and the Fielders' John Reyes (.343/12-for-35), and Ricardo Dela Cruz (.343/12-for-35). The Top 10 leaders were based on 24 or more at bats.

In the runs race, Nokki Saralu of the Brewers leads six others with his 16. The Fielders' Jordan Pangelinan and the Yankees' Jerome Delos Reyes are tied for second with 13 apiece, while the Fielders' John M. Reyes and Shane Mendiola, the Brewers' Juan Iguel, and the Yankees' Ben Jones are also in a deadlock with 12 each.

Five players are tied in the doubles category with Pangelinan, D-9ers' Lawrence Dikito, Brewers' Rabauliman, and the Yankees' Brian Camacho and Delos Santos scoring three apiece. Rabauliman is alone on top in the triples list with his four, ahead by one against Delos Santos, while three players have two apiece. Brian Camacho is still the leader in home runs with two, while Sablan holds the league's best 14 RBIs so far, three more than Pangelinan's.

In the pitching race, Dave Camacho remains perfect (0.00 ERA) with his 11.1 innings pitch, no errors, and only four runs scored. The Yankees are enjoying a sweep the Top 3 in the pitching contest so far with Tony Benavente (1.40 ERA) and Ton Agulto (1.42 ERA) in second and third.

Rounding out the Top 10 are the Brewers' Ben Cepeda (2.20), the Fielders' Jimmy Brel (2.53) and Mendiola (2.84), the Angels' Bill Camacho (3.32), the Fielders' Joe Palacios (3.86), and the Angels' Manny Cabrera (4.15) and Ben Taisacan (4.63). Cepeda has the most strikeouts so far with 46, leading five others, including the D-9ers' Ben Lizama and the Fielders' Joe Palacios, who have 21 each.

Meanwhile, results of last Friday's game between the D-9ers and the Fielders will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday issue.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	52	27	.658	–
x-Brooklyn	47	32	.595	5
x-Boston	41	39	.513	11 1/2
Philadelphia	32	47	.405	20
Toronto	31	48	.392	21

Southeast Division

z-Miami	63	16	.797	–
x-Atlanta	44	36	.550	19 1/2
Washington	29	51	.363	34 1/2
Orlando	20	60	.250	43 1/2
Charlotte	19	61	.238	44 1/2

Central Division

y-Indiana	49	30	.620	–
x-Chicago	43	36	.544	6
x-Milwaukee	37	43	.463	12 1/2
Detroit	28	52	.350	21 1/2
Cleveland	24	55	.304	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	58	21	.734	–
x-Memphis	54	26	.675	4 1/2
x-Houston	44	35	.557	14
Dallas	39	40	.494	19
New Orleans	27	53	.338	31 1/2

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	59	21	.738	–
x-Denver	54	25	.684	4 1/2
Utah	42	38	.525	17
Portland	33	46	.418	25 1/2
Minnesota	30	50	.375	29

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Clippers	54	26	.675	–
x-Golden State	45	35	.563	9
L.A. Lakers	43	37	.538	11
Sacramento	28	51	.354	25 1/2
Phoenix	24	56	.300	30

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, NYK	66	660	420	1895	28.7
Durant, OKC	80	721	673	2251	28.1
Bryant, LAL	78	738	525	2133	27.3
James, MIA	75	758	394	2012	26.8
Harden, HOU	75	561	655	1948	26.0
Westbrook, OKC	80	663	457	1878	23.5
Curry, GOL	76	608	259	1736	22.8
Wade, MIA	67	553	297	1420	21.2
Aldridge, POR	73	626	276	1530	21.0
Lopez, Bro	72	556	289	1401	19.5
Ellis, MIL	80	582	285	1537	19.2
Lillard, POR	79	532	258	1499	19.0
Williams, Bro	76	482	310	1438	18.9
Pierce, BOS	76	471	333	1419	18.7
Lee, GOL	77	588	251	1427	18.5
Griffin, LAC	78	568	276	1417	18.2
Smith, NYK	79	520	237	1431	18.1
Gay, TOR	72	496	233	1299	18.0
Jr. Holiday, PHL	75	540	181	1350	18.0
Jefferson, UTA	76	595	155	1347	17.7

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	305	476	.641
Howard, LAL	455	783	.581
McGee, DEN	293	509	.576
Ibaka, OKC	434	757	.573
Hickson, POR	407	717	.568
Splitter, SAN	306	541	.566
James, MIA	758	1342	.565
Johnson, TOR	325	585	.556
Faried, DEN	380	689	.552
Horford, ATL	576	1060	.543

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, LAL	74	242	668	910	12.3
Vucevic, ORL	75	265	625	890	11.9
Asik, HOU	79	268	657	925	11.7
Lee, GOL	77	216	649	865	11.2
Randolph, MEM	74	303	525	828	11.2
Evans, Bro	78	254	607	861	11.0
Hickson, POR	77	257	552	809	10.5
Horford, ATL	74	195	562	757	10.2
Cousins, SAC	72	214	496	710	9.9
Boozer, CHI	76	165	565	730	9.6

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	38	420	11.1
Paul, LAC	68	656	9.6
Vasquez, NOR	77	700	9.1
Jr. Holiday, PHL	75	618	8.2
Williams, Bro	76	591	7.8
Parker, SAN	64	483	7.5
Rubio, MIN	55	410	7.5
Westbrook, OKC	80	596	7.5
Nelson, ORL	56	413	7.4
Dragic, PHX	76	555	7.3

U.S. MASTERS SCORES

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) – Scores Saturday from the U.S. Masters, played at the par-72, 7,435-yard Augusta National Golf Club:

THIRD ROUND

Brandt Snedeker	70-70-69–209
Angel Cabrera	71-69-69–209
Adam Scott	69-72-69–210
Marc Leishman	66-73-72–211
Jason Day	70-68-73–211
Matt Kuchar	68-75-69–212
Tim Clark	70-76-67–213
Tiger Woods	70-73-70–213
Rickie Fowler	68-76-70–214
Jim Furyk	69-71-74–214
Bernhard Langer	71-71-72–214
Steve Stricker	73-70-71–214
Lee Westwood	70-71-73–214
Bo Van Pelt	71-74-70–215
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	68-74-73-215
Sergio Garcia	66-76-73–215
Nick Watney	78-69-68–215
Fred Couples	68-71-77–216
Jason Dufner	72-69-75–216
Zach Johnson	69-76-71–216
Thorbjorn Olesen	78-70-68–216
Justin Rose	70-71-75–216
Bill Haas	71-72-74–217
Freddie Jacobson	72-73-72–217
Dustin Johnson	67-76-74–217
Charl Schwartzel	71-71-75–217
John Senden	72-70-75–217
K.J. Choi	70-71-77–218
Luke Donald	71-72-75–218
Ernie Els	71-74-73–218
John Huh	70-77-71–218
Bubba Watson	75-73-70–218
Stewart Cink	75-71-73–219
Robert Garrigus	76-71-72–219
Branden Grace	78-70-71-219
Henrik Stenson	75-71-73–219
D.A. Points	72-75-72–219
Brian Gay	72-74-74–220
Kevin Na	70-76-74–220
Jose Maria Olazabal	74-72-74–220
Vijay Singh	72-74-74–220
Richard Sterne	73-72-75–220
David Toms	70-74-76–220
Lucas Glover	74-74-73–221
Trevor Immelman	68-75-78–221
Martin Kaymer	72-75-74–221
Paul Lawrie	76-70-75–221
David Lynn	68-73-80–221
Rory McIlroy	72-70-79–221
Thomas Bjorn	73-73-76–222
John Peterson	71-77-74–222
Scott Piercy	75-69-78–222
Peter Hanson	72-75-76–223
Carl Pettersson	76-70-77–223
Michael Thompson	73-71-79–223
Ryo Ishikawa	71-77-76–224
Phil Mickelson	71-76-77–224
Ryan Moore	71-72-81–224
a-Guan Tianlang	73-75-77–225
Sandy Lyle	73-72-81–226
Keegan Bradley	73-73-82–228

a-amateur

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMA Qualifiers for Oceania Area Championships

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two runners warm-up for the 100m race during the Northern Marianas Athletics qualifiers for the 2013 for Oceania Area Championships early this month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Veteran runner Tony Ichiou watches his runners at the starting block.

Jesus Iguel competes in the long jump qualifier.

Michael Mancao joins the long jump qualifier.

Gabrielle Race warms up for the 3,000m qualifier.

Tanner Kenty lands on the sand field during the long jump qualifier.

EDITOR'S NOTE
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Long De FC shuts out Tan Holdings

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings FC' Ruselle Zapanta collides with a Long De Football Club defender during the second period of their friendly game last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

China's Long De Football Club won its first friendly game on Saipan after beating M-League Division 1 champion Tan Holdings, 3-0, last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The visiting club from Nanjing drew goals from different players to have a winning debut on the island. The Long De-Tan Holdings match was played in three 30-minute period and the visitors scored in each canto with Zhao Yu Cheng's getting the most applause from the crowd.

Cheng, one of the tallest member of Long De and stands more than 6 feet tall, connected on a header after his teammate made a corner kick from the left just five minutes into the second period. The towering Cheng went for the header against the much smaller Russell Zapanta, who

See LONG DE FC on Page 26

Falcons rally past Rockies

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kagman Laolao Bay pitcher Pedro Maratita shows his pitching form during their game against IT&E in the Major division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons strengthened their hold on the top spot in the Major division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball after thwarting the Pinnacle Rockies, 4-3, last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

The win improved the Falcons' record in the 16-team field to 10-1, three victories ahead of the Comets 1 (7-1), while the Rockies dropped to a 6-4 slate.

The Rockies led in the first five innings, but committed several errors in the last inning, allowing the Falcons to steal the game. The Rockies entered the bottom of the sixth

See FALCONS on Page 26

Sablan, Camacho lead in SML

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A D-9ers runner is safe at home plate as the Fielders pitcher came in late for the tag during the bottom of the second inning of their game in the SML last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Brewers' Manny Sablan and Yankees' Dave Camacho are leading the batting and pitching races in the 2013 Saipan Major League.

As of April 10, Sablan is ranked No. 1 in the batting average with his .500, built on an 18-for-36 performance at the plate. He has four hits ahead of the Fielders' Juan Maratita, who went 14-for-30 for a batting average of .467. Maratita's teammate Jordan Pangelinan is in third place with his 10-for-25 showing at the plate and .400 average.

Rounding out the Top 5 are two more Brewers' sluggers—Ton Guerrero and Jun Rabauli-

See SABLAN on Page 26

Jones, Minor rule Open singles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rafael Jones, seen here posing with Jeff Race after getting their men's open doubles championship trophies, also won the men's open singles, while Thea Minor took the women's tiara in the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships last Sunday.

Junior players Rafael Jones and Thea Minor topped the men's and women's open singles events in the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships held over the weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Jones handed adult player Bobby Cruz another bridesmaid finish after posting a 6-3, 6-4 victory in last yesterday's men's open singles finals. Cruz lost to Todd Montgomery (5-7, 6-2, 3-6) in the same tournament last year, while Jones also had a botched campaign in the men's open singles, incidentally bowing to Montgomery, too, in the semis, 1-6, 3-6.

Then this year, Cruz earned a return trip to the finals a chance to clinch the crown he missed in 2012 after beating Dong Min Lee in the semis last Saturday, 6-3, 6-1. Lee marched into the Final Four after winning via walkover against Tiberus Mocanu in the top half of the draw last Friday.

In the lower half of the draw, Jones swept Moris Villanueva last Friday, 6-4, 6-4, to force a semis showdown with CNMI coach Jeff Race, who drew a bye last Friday and was seeded second in the men's open field. Jones went on to pull off an upset over his mentor, slipping past Race in a three-set game last Saturday evening. Jones dropped the opening set, 3-6, but stole the second finals berth from Race after sweeping the last two sets, 6-4, 6-4.

In the women's open, Minor extended her streak in the PIC tournament to six. Minor survived the upset axe of Mikayla Lopez in last Saturday's finals, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2, to keep her reign

See JONES on Page 26